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# NEWS & VIEWS

## When Airmen deploy, others help take care of their families

By Master Sgt. Chuck Roberts; photos by Master Sgt. Lance Cheung  
AIRMAN Magazine

Liz Larson helps family members cope when loved ones deploy. As a military family member, she knows first hand how important it is to get help during a crisis.

The family program assistant was on her way to Red Oak, Iowa, to provide redeploy-

ment briefings when her landlord called her. He told her to return home immediately, her downstairs neighbors had smelled smoke coming from her home.

About 45 minutes later, the fire marshal allowed her inside as firefighters were wrapping things up.

She stood in tears while gazing in amazement at the fire and water damage surrounding her. An electrical fire

destroyed her two children's bedroom.

But it could have been worse. If she hadn't closed the door before dropping Raelyn and Taylor at her mother's house, the fire marshal said the entire house might have been destroyed.

Although she routinely counsels family members who've experienced similar situations, she said her mind went blank. This time it happened to

her, and she had to go it alone. Her husband, Army Staff Sgt. Scott Larson, was deployed to Afghanistan.

But news of her misfortune traveled quickly to nearby Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., where Barry Wilkinson heard about the fire from a family friend while shopping at the commissary.

**Continued on next page**



At the Early Childhood Center in Bellevue, Neb., early childhood teacher Mary Walters (left) keeps an affectionate eye out for children and parents who stop by the free center while loved ones are deployed from Offutt. Tina Buchanan (gray shirt and glasses) visited the center about once a week with her 3-year-old daughter Brianna (wearing pink barrettes) while her husband, 1st Lt. Mike Buchanan, was deployed five months to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

### News & Views

The **News & Views** is published periodically by Air Force Services Agency.

Send comments, suggestions or submissions to: [submissions@agency.afsv.af.mil](mailto:submissions@agency.afsv.af.mil) or [steve.vanwert@agency.afsv.af.mil](mailto:steve.vanwert@agency.afsv.af.mil).

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

## Taking care of deployed families, continued from Page 2

Mr. Wilkinson, a community readiness consultant for the Offutt Family Support Center, called Mrs. Larson, and he soon had her and her children living at the base temporary lodging facility.

Living at the facility saved money, and she could cook for the children. Plus, it provided a welcomed sense of security.

### Focus on homecare

Such "focus on homecare" is a priority at Offutt, where deployments have been a way of life for more than a decade, said Col. John Daly, 55th Wing vice commander. The base saw almost 900 Airmen deploy at the beginning of the year. On Aug. 8, 1990, the wing was one of the first to deploy to the Persian Gulf soon after Saddam Hussein invaded neighboring Kuwait.

In many respects, the Offutt Airmen never left. Tasked with providing worldwide reconnaissance, combat support and com-

mand and control to war-fighting commanders, they're continually deployed somewhere in the world "24-7-365," Colonel Daly said.

### A deployed way of life

Deployments have become a way of life for the 8,500 Airmen of Offutt's wing, the largest in Air Combat Command and second largest in the Air Force. But the colonel said the base doesn't take for granted the effect the deployments have on those left behind.

"I definitely think things have improved," said Billie Gaines, director of the Offutt Family Support Center.

Many new programs evolved to handle family issues and problems that have remained much the same since the 1950s, when the wing flew RB-50s for Strategic Air Command. They include dealing with financial problems, depression, house repairs, cars breaking down and problems with children at school.

Left alone with no one to turn to, it's easy for spouses to develop a "my spouse is gone, nobody cares about me" attitude, Mrs. Gaines said. "We don't want that."

Before deploying, Airmen and spouses should attend a family support center pre-deployment briefing to increase awareness of issues, like powers of attorney and finances. It can also reinforce that the center is a point of contact for free phone cards, child care and car inspections, video phone access and details on volunteering and employment.

### Knowing where to go

Unfortunately, Airmen don't always convey key information to spouses, said Tech. Sgt. Kevin Friday, support center readiness non-commissioned officer. Knowing where to go or what to do can be daunting, he said, especially for someone new to the military and left behind for the first time.

"It's a huge learning experience for those families," Sergeant Friday said of first-term Airmen, guardsmen and reservists. The Offutt support center's umbrella extends to 20 Guard and Reserve units, and encompasses about 5,000 service members.

### Offutt FSC assists

As a member of the Iowa Inter-service Family Assistance Committee, Sergeant Friday and the Offutt Family Support Center staff assist units deployed for the global war on terrorism. Deployments can be especially tough on the family with a guardsman or reservist activated for the first time and deployed "down range" for a year.

With no military installation nearby, in many instances, Mrs. Gaines said the Offutt center can step in and help.

Its staff deals with issues such as the gap that can occur when a civilian paycheck ends and military pay begins.

"When units call us and ask, 'Can you help us?' We pack up our suitcases and go out and support them," Mrs. Gaines said.

### The folks downtown

At Offutt, coping with deployments is easier because of strong community support, said Mr. Wilkinson, also the president of the private organization, Friends of the Family Support Center.

"Most of the time, people are calling me to help," the retired master sergeant said. That includes downtown agencies like the Offutt Advisory Council. Working in conjunction with the base FSC, local teachers are given a guide to help recognize signs of separation anxiety and methods of dealing with them.

Although such base and community support is available, its no guarantee things won't be stressful or lonely for those left behind. But knowing how to react to what lies ahead can make all the difference.

# USAFE Services summer camps inspire, build leadership



By Master Sgt. Mona Ferrell  
USAFE News Service

Whether it's rock climbing, experiencing the thrill of a simulated space shuttle launch or building vital leadership skills, youth and teens throughout U.S. Air Forces in Europe have a lot of opportunities to keep busy over the summer.

Provided by USAFE Services, youth throughout the command are offered several week-long residential camps and a variety of specialty camps during the summer months.

The camps, which are fully-funded except for a small administrative fee, are available for all USAFE children within the respective age groups, said Jan Seachris, USAFE Services youth specialist.

"There are a lot of benefits being overseas," said Mrs. Seachris. "But,

sometimes living outside of the United States can also be hard on children. They don't have the opportunity to go visit their grandparents, or do some of the same things their stateside friends would have. These camps offer ways to help fill that void."

But the camps, unique to USAFE, do more than fill a void - they're educational, said Louella Anderson, USAFE chief of community activities.

"These programs and camps offer children the chance to vocalize their ideas and use their creativity," she said. "While we have staff that oversee the camps, the kids are put in leadership roles where they can build their own teams and discuss how to do certain activities. These camps promote leadership and creativity through a dynamic hands-on play environment."

One such environment is created through the Teen Challenge Ropes residential camp, held at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, and Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England. Throughout the five-day program, more than 80 USAFE youth, ages 13-18, completed individual and group activities designed to foster team building, group cohesion as well as leadership and problem-solving skills.

Space Camp, another five-day residential program held at Izmir Air Station, Turkey, and Kleine Brogel, Belgium, allows kids the chance to build and launch a micro rocket and learn about planets, the universe and space exploration. The youth also experience the thrill of a simulated space shuttle launch.

"We're trying to build life skills in these kids and

better prepare them for the future," said Mrs. Seachris.

"These camps offer opportunities that go beyond the normal education that's taught in a structured school environment."

In addition to the residential camps, USAFE bases offer a number of onsite specialty camps that provide instruction for sports and recreational activities.

Youth, ages 6-18, can kick their way through summer by enrolling in the soccer program, or learn the hottest moves and cheers with the summer cheerleading program, said Mrs. Seachris.

Young thespians also get a chance to get in on the act with the Missoula children's theater specialty camp, and for the more adventurous there's the skateboard camp program.

"We're really focusing on healthy bodies and fitness," said Mrs. Anderson.

"These camps promote leisure skills while widening the children's interest in sports by teaching them something they may not have tried otherwise."

And, for children whose parents are assigned to geographically separated units and munitions sites there's Camp Adventure.

"We try to keep everyone in mind," said Mrs. Seachris. "GSUs and MUNSS sites have no other way to offer activities for youth during the summer months, so we bring in trained students from the University of Northern Iowa to ensure activities are available for children at these sites."

Camp slots and allocations are provided to each base within the command based on the size of the installation and past history of the number of children signed up for each individual base.





## Crafty cookout

Claudette Tapaoan, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., Family Child Care provider, looks on as children enrolled in the FCC program enjoy doing crafts during an FCC provider cookout at the North Housing pavilion at Patrick AFB recently. The cookout was sponsored by the FCC program to show appreciation for the current FCC providers and to encourage others to enroll in the provider program. Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Brown

# Extreme Summer offers activities, prizes

**By Mandy Smith-Nethercott**  
**USAFE Services**

The U.S. Air Forces in Europe Extreme Summer program, runs through Aug. 31.

The Extreme Summer program encourages people to get involved in a variety of existing and new services and community activities, and it allows people to earn points by participating.

These points can be loaded onto the Extreme Summer website for chances to win

more than \$150,000 in prizes throughout the summer.

All USAFE active duty military, DOD civilians, and their family members 8-years old and older can participate in Extreme Summer. There are four competition categories: youth 8-12 years old; teens 13-18 years old; E1-E5 and spouses; and a category for E6-E9, all officers, civilians and spouses.

During the three months of Extreme Summer, points can

be earned for hundreds of activities, from logging a certain number of Fit-Linxx points to playing golf or taking an academic class. Going on trips, filling out book reviews at the library and volunteering all translate to prizes.

Extreme Summer 2005 also offers participants the opportunity to meet and interact with role models who will tour USAFE bases throughout the summer, including a professional

football player, a superhero, a real "survivor" and a storytelling team.

Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald came to USAFE bases in May to promote the program. The record-holding rookie wide receiver visited Aviano Air Base, Italy; Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England; Lajes Field, Azores; and Moron AB, Spain.

U.S. Army drill sergeant and former member of "Survivor:

Vanuatu – Islands of Fire" Lea 'Sarge' Masters visited select bases in June.

Rounding out the role model tours in July will be storytellers James Bowen and Gaye Teipel, who tell stories with folk music. Superhero 'Batman' will tour in August.

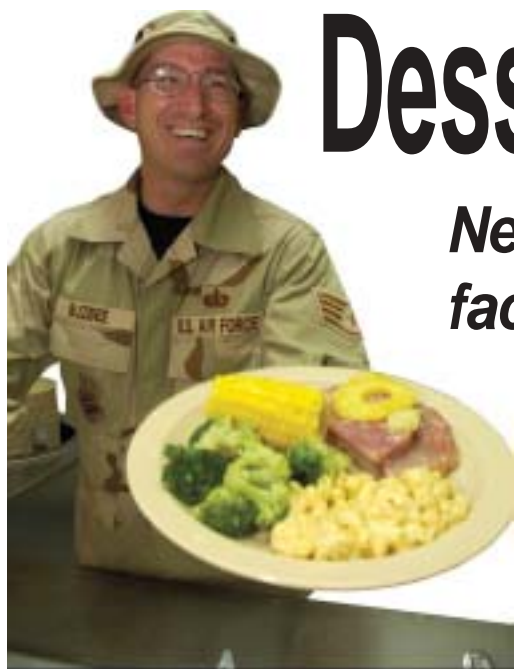
All participants receive 50 Extreme Summer 2005 points.

Grand-prize winners for the youth and teen categories receive an all-expense-paid trip to Walt

Disney World Resorts in Florida. Winners of the monthly and grand prize trips can take up to three family members or friends with them.

The top 3 percent of point earners in both adult categories combined qualify for a drawing to win a 2005 Jeep Wrangler.

Four first-place winners will receive a three-day, four-night, all-expense-paid trip for two to a NASCAR race at Atlanta Motor Speedway.



**Staff Sgt. Mark Buzbee, 379th Expeditionary Services Squadron, serves up a plate at the Manhattan. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Randy Mallard**

# Dessert in the desert

## *New Manhattan dining facility is a feeding machine*

**By Tech. Sgt. Mark Munsey**  
379th Expeditionary Air Wing Public Affairs

At 4:55 a.m. the alarm clock has again been beaten to the punch by the already-blinding Southwest Asia sun.

It's 110 degrees and more than seven hours before the sun is at its scorching zenith, and you've started the first daily drenching sweat desperate for a taste of home to remove the taste of dust and dirt.

Enter the 379th Expeditionary Services Squadron

and the new Manhattan dining facility just opened in operations town.

"Sometimes, it's the little things that count," according to Lt. Col. Dave Preston, 379th ESVS commander. "We've given the facility a more welcoming ambiance with plants and pictures as well as the plasma screen televisions to help keep our Airmen up to date on world news and sports."

Not too mention the main agenda for the patrons, Colonel Preston said. "The food served can't be beat. A continu-

ously-rotating menu ensures there's something for everyone," the Norfolk, Va., native said. "Each day, there's a nutritionally balanced selection of tasty, healthy food ensuring our warriors are 'fit to fight.'"

It's a combination even the most skeptical American taxpayer can appreciate.

"Tell your mom to relax ... you're eating right, at the Manhattan dining facility," he said.

For one patron, the atmosphere represents a welcomed utensil upgrade as well as a chance to avoid sharing a table with unwanted dining guests.

"You don't get the feeling you're deployed, there are not tents flapping or loud air conditioners and especially no flies," said Staff Sgt. Amy Murphy, 16th Expeditionary Special Operations Wing. "It's nice to eat with real silverware instead

of plastic. No more 'double forkin' it."

Even those who have spent innumerable duty hours at dining facilities across the blue are anxious to share the wealth.

The new facility is built for both quality and quantity, according to Master Sgt. Byron Nelson, 379th SVS Food Service flight chief.

"We can seat 358 personnel in the main dining area and 36 in the Twin

**Continued on next page**



**Master Sgt. Richard Scott, 379th ESVS, works the line to prepare a plate of food for Airman 1st Class Douglas Woods. At capacity, the staff can feed 1,400 members during a meal period.**

## Dessert, continued from Page 6

Towers distinguished visitors dining," the Spanish Fork, Utah native said. "Per meal, we average around 1,400 patrons."

Dollars and common sense went into the design and construction of the Manhattan, he said.

"The facility cost more than \$2 million, with more than \$500,000 of that going to new equipment alone. In excess of 55,000 man hours were

dedicated to ensuring the 14,000 square-foot building was ready from the moment we opened the doors for business."

As with all installations in Southwest Asia, the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing is a guest of its host nation, but while the Manhattan is the most recent example, it is far from the end game of 379th SVS quality-of-life initiatives,

Colonel Preston said.

"The long-term vision is going to transition the services squadron from a sustainment phase to steady-state operations, encompassing everything from dormitory rooms, a state of the art fitness center and another dining facility located in Millennium Village."

More silverware has already been ordered.



Senior Airman Tykesha Caylor, 379th ESVS, prepares to carve the turkey at the new Manhattan dining facility.

### ***Airborne!***

Members of the Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Honor Guard Drill Team entertain the audience with some of their precision moves during the annual honor guard banquet at the Gateway Club. Four guard members were recognized in the Team Lackland Drill category while five others collected 37th Training Wing laurels. Photo by Robbin Cresswell





## Names, faces in the news

### ACC award winner

Judith Hewitt, 5th Services Squadron educational technician at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., recently received the Air Combat Command outstanding civilian technician award for 2004.



### Nellis CCAF news

Two Services people from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., completed associates degrees and graduated recently from the Community College of the Air Force. They are:

**Tech. Sgt. Ronald Walker**, Restaurant, Hotel & Fitness Management; and

**Tech. Sgt. Roy Williams**, Restaurant, Hotel & Fitness Management

### Kirtland Quarterly Awards

Civilian, category I  
**Antonio Martinez**, 377th Services Squadron



**Antonio Martinez**

### Malmstrom CCAF grads

Restaurant, Hotel & Fitness Management  
**Staff Sgt. Stacey Miesaloski**  
**Master Sgt. James Steers**  
**Staff Sgt. Tyhessia Stephens**  
**Staff Sgt. Derek Westfall**

### Mountain Home FTAC

**Airman Ashley Anschultz**, 366th Services Squadron, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, recently received the Class 05K "Gunfighter Pride" Award.

### IMCEA 2005 award winner

**Christine Frazier**, lodging manager at the Hodja Inn, 39th Services Squadron, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, is the Air Force winner of the International Military Community Executives Association Irving Rubenstein Memorial Award.

### Nellis quarterly awards

Civilian, Category I  
**Chris Halford**  
99th Services Squadron

### DM people win awards

ACC Individual Services Civilian Manager Award  
**Daniel Baker**  
355th Services Squadron  
Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.  
Air Force Services Senior NCO of the Year ACC (IMA)  
**Senior Master Sgt. John Ruggiero**  
355th Services Squadron

ACC Innkeeper Traveler of the Year  
**David Ruiz**  
355th Services Squadron



**Daniel Baker**



**Senior Master Sgt. John Ruggiero**

### Goodfellow top runner

**Martin Littlefield**, 17th Services Division, came in first in the recent Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, second quarterly 17th Training Wing run.



**Martin Littlefield**

### Holloman CCAF grads

**Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Shepard** and **Linda Holified**, 49th Services Squadron, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., recently graduated from the Community College of the Air Force.

### Team Tinker Civilian of the Year

This year's finalists for the Team Tinker Civilian of the Year award program have been selected. Winners will be recognized at the annual Team Tinker Civilian of the Year Awards Banquet, at the Tinker Club. Among the finalists is:

Category 5: (Rookie of the Year)  
– **Maurice Smith**, 72nd Services Division

### Brooks City-Base annual winners announced

**Jose Valadez**, 311th Services Division, Brooks City-Base, Texas, was named 2004 NAF Manager of the Year. Mr. Valadez is manager of the Brooks City-Base Golf Course.



**Jose Valadez**



## FROM THE AGENCY

## 9<sup>th</sup> annual Air Force marathon set for Sept. 17; entries Sept. 2

By Steve VanWert  
Air Force Services  
Agency

Air Force Services officials will hold the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, on Sept. 17. The marathon will also include a half-marathon, wheelchair race, a four-person relay and a 5K race.

The deadline for registration is Sept. 2. The race is open to the public.

The course is a certified 26.2 mile run that starts and ends at the National Museum of the United States Air Force and traverses historical places on Wright-Patterson AFB including the Air Force Institute of Technology, Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command, the Wright-Patterson flight line, Huffman Prairie Flying Field, and the Wright Brothers Monument.

Bill Rogers, a four-time winner of both the Boston and New York City

marathons and a member of the 1976 U.S. Olympic marathon team, along with Alberto Salazar, who set six U.S. records, one world record and won three consecutive New York marathons, will conduct clinics at the Expo. They will both speak at the gourmet pasta dinner at the National Museum of the United States Air Force on Friday evening and participate in the races on Saturday.

Runners must pick up race packets at the Sports and Fitness Expo at the Ervin J. Nutter Center on Sept. 15 from noon until 7 p.m. and Sept. 16 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Nutter Center is located approximately 1.5 miles from the Wright-Patterson Inns.

Registration fees are: marathon (individual), \$45; Wheelchair, \$45; Relay Team, \$160 per team; Half Marathon, \$30 and the 5k, \$15. Tickets for the pasta dinner



A member of Team Moody approaches the third relay exchange during the 8th annual official Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 18, 2004. More than 3,800 runners competed in the marathon. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Adrienne Michele

can be paid for on the registration entry form and are \$12 per adult, \$6 per child ages 6-12, and free for children age 5 or younger.

Register online at <https://www.signmeup.com/register.aspx?fid=3G2VVK7>.

Permissive temporary duty is authorized for this event.

The Air Force Marathon has been flying high for eight years and Air Force Services Agency officials recently approved it as an official Air Force event.

The marathon was initiated in 1997 as Wright Patterson AFB's tribute to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of

the Air Force. A record 3,500 people participated last year, while about 7,000 others volunteered or were spectators.

"Becoming the official Air Force Marathon brings credibility to it," said M. Scott Nunnally, Air Force Services Agency. The Air Force Marathon is already a qualifying race for the Boston Marathon. The Air Force has openings in all events.

For more information, visit the Air Force Marathon Web site at <http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil> or call (937) 257-4350 or (800) 467-1823.

## DOD committed to meeting military child care needs

By Terri Lukach  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Department officials are actively engaged in improving child care services for military parents, a top Pentagon official said here May 6.

John Molino, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy, said the days of mostly single, barracks-dwelling service members is a thing of the past.

"Today's military is different," Mr. Molino said. "A little more than 50 percent of the force is married, and about 44 percent of the force has children ranging in age from infants to college students. Each family has individual needs and different kinds of needs based on their age group."

"We have to accommodate those needs because we are sending people around the world where they are away from their families, from grandparents and from other traditional means of support," he said. "We are also deploying more people than in the recent past, and when you do that, you create a single-parent family overnight. More often than not, that single parent has a job, a job they may need to survive."

DOD officials are trying to reinforce programs that have been working successfully and to come up with creative solutions to help with new or

anticipated needs. Extended deployments for large elements at an installation place an increased burden on those who stay behind, Mr. Molino said.

"Work hours are extended, duty days are extended, and we need extended child care hours because these people are simply at work for a longer day than they were before," he said.

Two military installations, one in Virginia and one in Hawaii, have child care 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Many military parents need child care for the short term only — parents who are in training, or who just need a few hours to shop, to go out with friends or simply take a break.

"We are providing that in many areas," he said, "as well as going 'beyond the gate' to see what options are available in the community, and how existing services may be subsidized for families who are unable to take advantage of service provided on the installation."

Child care initiatives available to active duty service members also are available to guardsmen and reservists, Mr. Molino said.

"If service members are going to be successful in their careers and are going to stay in the military, they need to know the military is an environment friendly to families and children and an environment that will facilitate their career aspirations. That is key," he said.

## *Air Force wins inter service chess tourney, heads to NATO competition*

The Air Force Chess team won the Inter service Chess Tournament held June 6 through 10 at Fort Meyer, Va. The Air Force team won with 26.5 points and the Army followed with 23.5 points. The Navy was third and the Marine Corps rounded out the competition.

Air Force won first place in the Blitz (speed) tournament. Tech. Sgt. Dan Ranario, RAF Mildenhall was the winner.

Once again the Air Force will be well represented at the NATO tournament. Two of the six members of the NATO team are from the Air Force. Team members from the Air Force are: Staff Sgt. Robert Keough, Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.; and Col. Samuel Echaure, Barksdale AFB, La. The other team members are Staff Sgt. Ruben Cedeno, Marine Corps; PN1(SW) Narciso Victoria, Navy; and Spc. Mustapha Kahlouch, Army. These six active duty military members will make up the team and represent the United States at the NATO tournament. The USA team will travel to Poland to participate in the 16<sup>th</sup> annual NATO tournament, Aug. 21 through 27.

Each year the hosting responsibilities for this tournament rotate between the Services. The Army was the host for 2005 tournament and the Navy will host the 2006 tournament.

The Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force each send a six-person team to the competition.

The best players from each service are selected to participate in the annual Inter service tournament to select the very best.

The Air Force holds a tournament with the top two players selected from each major command, and the top six are selected to participate in the Inter-Service tournament.

# Myers, other commanders, tell Senate of 'Hot Meal' morale



Arthur Myers, Air Force Services Director

Excerpted from an article by Rick Sanborn  
Regional News Director,  
Government Food Service Magazine, July 2005

Despite congressional schedules changing on short notice to permit members to attend mourning observances for Pope John Paul II in their home districts, the House armed Services Committee Military Personnel Subcommittee held hearings on military quality of life issues in April.

The first of two panels of witnesses included the MWR chiefs from all

services, including Arthur Myers, director of Air Force Services.

"At the height of OEF and OIF, Air Force Services surged to deploy more than 1,850 troops to support forward operating locations," Director Myers said, adding that about 500 deployed SVS troops provide support at 22 locations to 27,000 deployed forces.

SVS continues to serve up some 36,000 meals daily to deployed forces and can surge to more than 110,000 meals a day.

"In December 2004, I had the opportunity to visit

16 deployed sites in Iraq and witnessed first-hand the positive impact our foodservice professionals are having on the quality of life for our deployed forces," Mr. Myers said. "We all know what a hot meal can do for a person's morale and attitude, so we continue to look at innovative ways to get meal to the troops.

The single pallet expeditionary kitchen has reduced airlift requirements for initial field feeding facilities, he said. "This quick-response kitchen, utilizing the latest field feeding technology, has allowed us to get quality, hot

food to the troops quickly and efficiently."

Mr. Myers also discussed the Air Force club program. "Benchmarking against industry's best hospitality trends and innovative business practices, Air Force club customers are given the latest products and programs at U.S. bases and are also offered a bit of Americana at our overseas bases," he said.

The You Be You program introduces new Air Force enlisted recruits to SVS and clubs by establishing and sustaining first contact at their

basic military training or technical school, Mr. Myers said. The UBU card provides discounts at various SVS facilities and zero dues for the first year of active military service, he said.

A second program, "Take It To The Max," focuses on educating second lieutenants.

"All new club members receive the first six months of dues free, and existing members are provided food and beverage coupons as part of the promotion," Mr. Myers said.

# BACK TO BASICS

*Editor's note: Periodically, this space will provide important information from one of Air Force Service Agency's branches. This issue, "Back to Basics" is provided by the Club Operations Branch.*

## Back it or lose it!

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**By Steve Burgess**  
**Air Force Services Agency Club**  
**Operations Branch**

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Today I did a "google" search on "Backing up data" that returned 4,790,000 results. Some of the results dealt with companies selling back up software, as they should be, but many of the results dealt with writings about why regular back ups are important.

In any case, this must be considered a "hot" or "popular" topic to return such a large amount of possible hits.

How often do you back up your data? It seems our club business systems are growing to the point that without them we could cease to function. We spend hours daily taking party contracts, setting up room diagrams, building menus, building commander briefings and selling stuff.

All of the collected data has a place in our business operation and will eventually affect our bottom-line.

But what if that data were to unexpectedly disappear?

Like many of those procrastinating tasks we face in life (filing taxes, dental visits, preventative automobile maintenance, etc..) we, without thought, place backing up our data into that necessary but loathsome category.

It has to be done and if not can cause more pain or trouble than doing the actual painless task.

Seems like more and more audit reports contain entries where a regular club business system back up is not done.

Some folks just plain do not do them for various predetermined reasons (they like living on the wild side). Some folks have one tape and it's been used for several years now to where the length is twice as long as it was 18 months ago (tapes will stretch with long time use).

But the classic case is where the tape and backup software is set precisely and routinely each night to do the backup unknowing to the operator that the tape backup system is not functioning (total ignorant bliss)!

One day you will face, as we did recently at a site, a situation where the data is required to complete the

job and it just isn't there! Everyone gets embarrassed. The manager, because no one checked the status logs to ensure a back up was started and stopped; the IT guys because they never followed up on the newly installed back up system, and us, because we deleted the data to start with then asked them to restore data that did not exist anyway!

Do your system back ups – religiously. Follow the guides in the AFIs and local directives about back up frequencies and storage of the tapes.

Make sure your back up system functions properly – try a restore (first make a copy of the data to be restored).

Have more than one tape available – one for each night of the week is adequate.

Check the back up software logs daily to ensure the system is doing what you intended for it to do.

Report all malfunctions to your local IT staff, and finally, train, train, train your staff to conduct back ups in your stead – just follow up on their work (as you do anyway).



# NAF Transformation

## *An introduction to the Customer Support Division*

**By Denise Wimberley**  
**Air Force Services**  
**Agency**

The Customer Support Division's mission is to provide technical and financial management support to users and processors of financial information to ensure uninterrupted access to accurate, complete, timely, and appropriate financial information.

There are two branches in this division:

### *Application Support Branch*

The Application Support Branch will analyze, solve or forward customer application problems to an appropriate provider to ensure minimal downtime and continuous access to the Air Force Services

Financial Management System.

### *Field Support Branch*

The Field Support Branch will provide timely, appropriate, personalized responses to users' concerns about financial information, analysis, and reporting issues to ensure consistent and timely access to accurate user-appropriate financial information.

This division will begin working with each base during the pre-deployment (60-day window) by addressing any/all issues being handled by that particular base.

The new process of scanning, transmitting, etc., of daily financial information will begin during this time coming to the appropriate major command team who will focus their

attention on that base's needs.

Each base's financial history will be mapped over to the AFSFMS and any/all unique requirements will be addressed to ensure complete satisfaction with results.

Networking will also begin during this time frame, as each MAJCOM team will be your focal point, from this point on, for all your concerns/issues.

A dedicated team from the Field Support Branch will arrive at a your base about 2-3 weeks in advance of transitioning to AFSFMS to assist you in your deployment.

During pre-deployment and actual deployment, our IT folks will be making sure access to AFSFMS is in place, that the flat file interfaces for Aloha, Qubica and LTS are ready to go,

and ensure the environment for the training that will be conducted meets requirements anticipated.

The team will be ensuring all accounts are indeed in balance and conducting the training necessary to ensure your base is ready and comfortable with the new system and how to monitor your financial health. Step-by-step written guidance will be left with each manager and RMF personnel demonstrating how to accomplish the new processes. This guidance will also be incorporated into a Program Action Directive and will replace AFI 34-209 and AFMAN 34-214 for deployed bases.

Finally, part of the on-site deployment team will stay after your conversion to the new system to aid in those first few days

with whatever concerns/issues you may experience. After deployment, daily financial information will be sent to the applicable branches, but all questions and problems will continue to come to the Field Support Branch MAJCOM team for resolution. Each base will be left with a post deployment checklist covering items that you should stay on top of to help you out in the first few months.

Our ultimate goal is to provide you with a personalized team that will support you and be there to handle all our customer's needs.

We hope this will provide a major comfort zone for all base personnel and we look forward to working with you from pre-deployment on.

# FROM THE FIELD

## VAC recognizes volunteers during Nat'l Volunteer Week

**By Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek**  
Tyndall Air Force Base,  
Fla. Public Affairs

What do the Airmen's Attic, the Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity all have in common?

Each of these charitable organizations couldn't do what they do without the help of volunteers.

The Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Volunteer Advisory Committee knows this, and it made sure Tyndall's volunteers were recognized during National Volunteer Week.

There were many activities throughout the week, including discounts off goods at the Base Exchange for volunteers, a display at the base Library provided by the 325th Services Squadron, an open house with door prizes at Tyndall Federal Credit Union and giveaways at the Commissary.

"We have so many people who

give so much, we just want to give them some recognition," said Catherine Tarrant, Family Support Center community readiness consultant. "All the hours put in and the services provided by the Tyndall people are phenomenal. Our volunteers love to help."

Tyndall's love to help shows, with more than 600 people volunteering more than 79,000 hours of their time to such projects as Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Airman's Attic and the Red Cross.

In years past, volunteers were recognized solely by the agencies they worked for. The Volunteer Resource Program changed that.

"The VRP's purpose is to recruit, recognize and train volunteers at Tyndall," said Ms. Tarrant. Besides giving out awards such as Volunteer of the Quarter, the VRP also interviews interested volun-

teers, she said. After finding out what they enjoy doing, the VRP assists them in getting a position that will benefit both the volunteer and the agency.

"We are a guide for volunteers," said Ms. Tarrant. "We find out what they love to do and help them to have fun."

All of this fun culminated with National Volunteer Week, the highlight being the Volunteer Reception at the Officers' Club.

"We (named) the Volunteers of the Year at the reception," said Ms. Tarrant. "We have two categories. Category 1 is for retirees, federal civilians and (family members). Category 2 is for active duty military members."

This year the winners were Anne Raabe for Civilian Volunteer of the Year, and Airman 1st Class Derek Hojohn, 325th Comptroller Squadron, for Military Volunteer of the Year.

Awards were also handed out for Tyndall Retiree Activities Office and Red Cross volunteers. Herman Worrell won for RAO Volunteer of the Year, and Brigid Johnson won for Red Cross Volunteer of the Year.

The Air Force Volunteer Excellence award was handed out at the reception as well. The award recognizes federal civilians, family members, and military and federal retirees who perform outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained, direct and consequential nature. The award is signed by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

Don Harding, Harlow Russell and Karen Sugg, wife of Chaplain (Capt.) Robert Sugg, took the prize this year.

"At Tyndall, volunteers have provided a seamless positive impact on our community," said Ms. Tarrant. "They are priceless."

# Incirlik shares Spring Fling with Turkish neighbors

By Jeannie Gooch  
Training and Curriculum Coordinator

Children's laughter, music from the high school band and security forces sirens filled the air of Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, recently to signal the start of Spring Fling 2005.

Spring Fling is an annual event to celebrate the month of the Military Child. This year the 39<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron joined Turkish military families to celebrate National Sovereignty and Children's Day.

The day started off with a colorful parade. Leading the parade was a security forces car, a fire truck and the parade grand marshal, Col. Michael Gardiner, 39<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing commander. The parade also consisted of floats, children from several different base organizations, marching cheerleaders, squadron themed floats, decorated bikes, and even well loved family pets. More than 120 people marched through the base housing area and ended at Arkadas Park.

Once at the park, both American and Turkish families had a wide



Spring Fling 2005 at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, started off with a parade with more than 120 people. Courtesy photo

selection of activities in which to participate. The stage showcased numerous talents such as ballet, tap and gymnastics. Even the Incirlik pets showed off their best tricks in a pet contest. The children were able to get their faces painted, create a tattoo or a piece of art work or jump in bouncy castles at the Kids Zone. The base private organizations provided numerous food and informational booths; families could adopt pets from a local animal shelter, participate in a jail and bail

or taste a wide variety of foods. There also was a special Earth Day tree planting ceremony. Colonel Gardiner, 39<sup>th</sup> ABW, General Turkmen, Turkish air force commander, and both Turkish and American children planted the first tree with a plaque placed at the base to remember the significance of the Turkish and American 50 year partnership and its hope for the future.

The celebration finished with a grand performance of 50 Turkish children and musicians from Adana who took the stage to demonstrate several different native dances for the base community.

More than 500 people participated and enjoyed the company of old friends, new friends and neighbors.



Among the events at Spring Fling 2005, the face painting booth proved to be one of the most popular with Incirlik's children. Courtesy photo

# Kunsan AB cooks up lunchtime classes



Above, volunteer instructor Kim, Kyong Son demonstrates to Maj. Percy Dingle, 8th Mission Support Squadron commander at Kunsan Air Base, Korea, and fellow classmates, how to place the first of many layers on their Kim Bop. Each of the different layers give the Kim Bop its taste and texture. Photos by Senior Airman Joshua Garcia

Left, Staff Sgt. Kari Sue Fernandez, 8th Fighter Wing, tries her hand during a lunchtime cooking class. The family support center offers cooking classes covering a variety of cultural dishes.



## ***Stormy's offers D-M variety***

Stormy's is located in the Desert Lightning Community Center at Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. The menu includes an array of items such as submarine sandwiches, wraps, chicken wings, soups, pizza, pastries, hot beverages and more. In this photo, Denise Harden, a worker at Stormy's and spouse of Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Harden, 355th Logistics Readiness Squadron, makes a turkey sub. Photo by Kelsey Gutschow





### *A star is born*

Television station KTVK, Channel 3, of Phoenix bestowed the Gold Star Award for excellence on Mary-Lynn Piper, 15, recently at Millennium High School where she is a freshman. The award is, in part, a result of her involvement in the 56th Services Squadron Youth Center Keystone Club. She was also recently named the 2005 Luke Air Force Base Youth of the Year. Looking on is her father, Tech. Sgt. James Piper, 56th Component Maintenance Squadron Unit Affairs. Photo by Senior Airman Joseph Thompson

## Dyess library hosts motorcycle rally

**By Airman 1st Class James Kang  
Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, Public  
Affairs**

Dyess riders showcased their motorcycles at a Dyess Motorcycle Rally, May 13 hosted by the base library.

"This was a great opportunity to allow folks on base to show off their bikes that they take such pride in and also allow riders and non-riders alike the chance to see some beautiful and powerful machines at their finest," said Jim Callahan, library systems analyst and event coordinator.

A total of 22 bikes were registered and positioned for display throughout the day in front of the base library. The bikes were later judged by Col. Steven Tippetts, 7<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group commander, Lt. Col. Terrie Ford, 7<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron commander, and Dan Bell, 7th SVS, to select the winners.

There were six different categories of bikes in the event. They were

domestic tour, domestic cruiser, domestic custom, import tour, import cruiser and sport bike.

First place winners received a \$20 gift certificate to any Dyess club and second place winners received a \$10 gift certificate.

The first place winners were: Domestic Touring – Bruce Stansel's 2005 Harley-Davidson Ultra; Domestic Cruiser—Mary McClary's 1997 HD Springer; Domestic Custom — Roland Delawney's American Iron Horse; Import Touring – Dave Peterson's 2001 Honda Goldwing; Import Cruiser – Terrance Murphy's 2004 Honda Rune; Sport Bike — John Hearn's 2003 Suzuki GSXR 1000



**Custom motorcycles sit outside the base library recently. The library hosted the motorcycle rally that awarded prizes in six categories. Photo by Airman 1st Class Christopher Walkenhorst**

A local dealer, Max's Kawasaki of Abilene provided two motorcycles to be displayed in the base library. The Honda Rune was displayed through Tuesday and the Yamaha R6 will be displayed for a few more weeks.

"We had such a good turnout at the event that we plan on having it again," said Cheryl Smith, library manager.

# Brooks Teen Center: A life guiding experience

Whitewater rafting through Idaho's Sawtooth mountains is part of the Brooks Teen Center's outdoor adventure program. Photos by Ron Hayes



**By Rudy Purificato**  
311th Human Systems Wing

There was a time in the distant past when idle teenagers at Brooks City-Base, Texas, had little to do to keep them occupied and out of trouble.

Ron Hayes saw not a troubling trend, but an opportunity to reach out to youngsters in such a way that it would have a lasting influence on them. His vision was the creation of a special place for teenagers where they'd feel safe, at home and most importantly – welcome.

Dubbed the Brooks Teen Center, the place he founded in 1993 has since become an oasis of fun for teenagers and a launching pad for innumerable activities that have benefited children, adults and the community.

"Right before I started the teen center, people were afraid that gangs would develop here. A lot of

the teens were big, and no one thought that they could work with them," said Mr. Hayes, the Non-Appropriated Fund teen coordinator for Brooks Youth Services.

The teen center founder instinctively knew that at the core of most youth problems was a feeling of being out-of-place in a fast-paced, demanding world.

"My feelings in starting the center were based on giving them a sense of belonging, a place receptive to their needs," he said.

Retired Youth Services director Dixie Bonamo championed Mr. Hayes' crusade to establish the first teen center at a San Antonio military installation.

"Dixie saw that I had a knack for connecting with teens. She fought to get a separate facility for teens, an old two-story barracks located behind the chapel," he said.

Its creation was pivotal in ending youth crime at Brooks. Security

Forces officials told Mr. Hayes that youth vandalism completely stopped. Teens no longer wanted to hang out at the base bowling alley or roam the streets. They have a place they called their own.

Equally important, they had a friend and confidant in Mr. Hayes, who conveyed a genuine interest in addressing their needs and concerns.

"We had great rap sessions about teen issues," he said. "Their main concern was there wasn't anything for them to do at Brooks."

Inherently resistant to authority and restrictions, youngsters found at the teen center a place where they were free to express themselves.

"They are allowed to paint or draw graffiti on the walls. When the walls are full, we whitewash them and start over," Mr. Hayes said.

**Continued on next page**

## Brooks Teen Center guides teens *continued from Page 18*

Everything is done with propriety in mind. The overriding rule there is that "the teens have the right to a clean and safe environment." Inappropriate behavior or language is not condoned. In fact, teens police themselves.

"We have a teen council that includes a sheriff. They are elected and enforce teen rules," Mr. Hayes said.

Members who break rules earn demerits. Demerits result in teens forfeiting "'teen bucks" earned from community service work. This teenage currency is redeemed for a variety of gifts, ranging from video games and stereo systems to TVs. "It (teen bucks) teaches them responsibility and is used as a goal-setting tool," Mr. Hayes said.

Perhaps the most popular activity is the character and leadership development program called TRAIL, an acronym for Training Responsible Adolescence in Leadership. This program features team-building outdoor adventures.

"We've had bike rides in Washington state, went white-water rafting in Idaho and snow skied in Colorado. We create teachable moments, such as rock climbing in New Mexico, which is a great metaphor for life. Each step they take is a step in life," Mr. Hayes said.

Besides overnight camping, they've also had overnight "'lock-ins" at the center, a pajama party variation."

No one sleeps at lock-ins. There's continuous activity, from watching

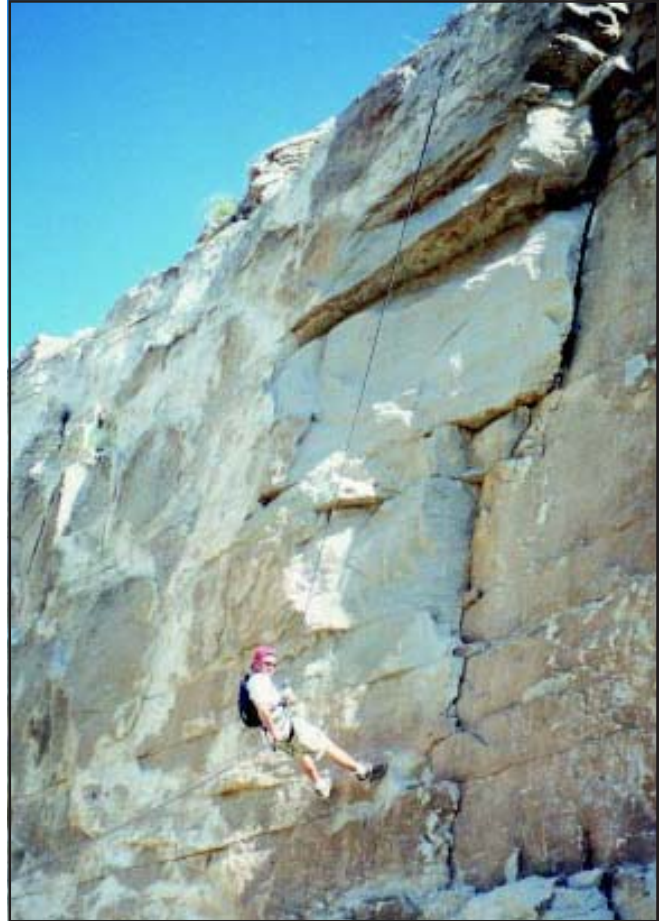
movies and playing games to making art work out of seasonings," Mr. Hayes said.

Not everything teen center members do involves fun and games. Teens support the community, ranging from feeding the homeless to sponsoring a program called Toys From Teens.

"The teens developed the program in 2002. They decided to sell their personal items at a flea market for cash to buy toys for needy kids," Mr. Hayes said.

They have also volunteered to read to hospitalized children and have supported the Special Olympics. They've tutored students and conducted job-shadowing at Wal-Mart.

The teen center has also hosted an endless series of workshops, ranging from anger management to financial management, the latter taught by Federal Reserve retiree 'Pinky' Mr. Hayes' wife.



**Rappelling and rock climbing were part of the adventure training that Brooks Teen Center members participated in during a New Mexico trip.**

Now located in the teen-remodeled Bldg. 641, the center supports about 40 youngsters. Its recreational assets include a pool table that glows in the dark and a music room named Karma that houses band instruments and recording equipment used to produce CDs. There are places to read, watch movies, snack, play video games and do homework.



# FSC helps folks get back on firm financial footing

By Master Sgt. Brian Orban  
Kunsan Air Base,  
Korea, Public Affairs  
Office

One  
trillion  
dollars.

A dollar sign followed by a one and 12 zeroes; enough money to buy a high-end home computer system for every man, woman and child in the United States with plenty of money left over; the amount of money Americans owed in 2003 to creditors, money lenders,

banks and businesses from coast to coast; a time bomb waiting to ruin the financial future of many people.

Every day, more Americans dig themselves into severe financial debt.

Many of them will fall into this pit with little hope of climbing back out, according to Sun Park, director and financial counselor with the Kunsan Air Base, Korea, Family Support Center.

The center sees clients every day with a variety of financial issues. At least one in three of those walking through the doors have severe money



The Family Support Center recommends people at Kunsan Air Base, Korea, avoid compulsive spending habits and save when they can to avoid the shock and awe of a severe financial crisis when they move on to their next duty station. Model: Senior Airman Angela Colon, 8th Fighter Wing; Illustration by Master Sgt. Brian Orban

woes, defined as having more than 30 percent of their paychecks going to pay the hefty interest rates and multiple moneylenders they owe.

"Those in severe debt are more likely to file bankruptcy and eventually be forced from Air Force life," Mr. Park said.

It's this reality that prompts the FSC's counselor to offer his help to those struggling to make ends meet before it's too late.

## ROOT CAUSE: BAD SPENDING

In cases of severe financial woes, people really don't have money problems; they have

spending or discipline problems.

Most of the time, they overextend their credit limits and spend beyond their ability to make the minimum payments.

"Those who get into trouble are often the ones that want instant gratification," Mr. Park said. "They don't want to wait to save \$1,000 or \$2,000 for a car [down payment]. They want a car now. When they do buy a car, it's not the kind of car that would retain the high resale value."

"That's where problems can start," he said.

Add in a high monthly insurance

payment for a young Airman with a less-than-spotless driving record and that \$400 monthly payment can easily exceed \$800 per month.

"With average car loans exceeding 48 months, it doesn't take long for money to start disappearing," Mr. Park said.

## CULPRIT NUMBER 2: IMPULSIVE SHOPPING

The need for instant gratification can lead to other problems for those ignoring the bottom line. Compulsive spending and buying eat away at people's paychecks.

Continued on next page.



### ***Diggin' it***

Daphyne Dixon, daughter of Staff Sgt. William Dixon, U.S. Marine Corps, plays in the sand box at the Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Child Development Center recently. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Demetrius Lester



## ***In debt up to your ears? Continued from page 20***

"In most cases, people don't know why they're doing it," the counselor said. "Compulsive shoppers are spending money because buying something makes them feel good for at least a few minutes. If they don't buy something, they feel guilty."

Ironically, those who impulse shop often buy what Mr. Park calls consumables: a night on the town, fancy dinners or shopping at Osan. They have no money in the bank and nothing to show for it.

Even those who religiously pinch pennies aren't immune.



The FSC sees clients who binge spend where they won't buy anything for six months then splurge and empty their savings account.

### **FINDING THE END OF THE RAINBOW**

Once they've dug themselves into a money pit, it can take years for people to climb out, according to Mr. Park. Financial counseling at the FSC is a start. One-on-one counseling helps give people a snapshot look at their personal situation and offers places to trim debt.

But the secret to financial success lies with each person, according to the counselor.

"Even a commander can't tell their people how to spend their

money and how much they can spend," he said. "However, we can teach people to live within their means. If they're comfortable with \$500 in the bank and don't touch it, then they've achieved their goal. However, others aren't comfortable unless they always have \$5,000 in the bank."

The \$1 trillion personal debt is growing across the United States. The counselor urges people here, especially those ashamed to admit they may have a problem, to seek lasting solutions to their financial situation and climb out of the money trap.

# Honoring those who served

## *Dyess Honor Guard provides honors, services for military*

Airman 1st Class Melissa Lozano salutes a flag-draped casket as members of the Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, Honor Guard Alpha flight provide pallbearer services during a military funeral service. Recently, the Dyess Honor Guard performed 25 funeral services in one day. The Dyess Honor Guard provides its services to 38 Texas counties covering more than 110,000 square miles. Courtesy photos



**By Airman 1st Class  
Kiley Olds  
Dyess Air Force Base,  
Texas, Public Affairs**

Integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. For Airmen, the Air Force core values are words to live by. For a select few Airmen at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, their mission is to exemplify the Air Force core values.

This is the mission of the Dyess Honor Guard. The base honor guard is composed of 80 active-duty members whose primary purpose is to provide funeral honors for active-duty service members, military retirees and veterans.

Recently, the Dyess Honor Guard performed an impressive 25 funeral services during one day.

In addition to providing funeral honors, the honor guard presents "the colors," (the American Flag) for various events both on and off base.

"We get out into the community and show that our veterans and retirees are not forgotten," Master Sgt. Levi Lawrence, Dyess Honor Guard superintendent, said. "We show that the Air Force of

today will never forget about the Air Force of yesterday."

The Dyess Honor Guard is made up of Airmen who volunteer their time to be among the few who are proud enough to serve as members of the honor guard team.

People interested in joining the honor guard fill out an application and seek approval from their work section, first sergeant and finally their commander.

Following the application process, individuals are interviewed to see if they exemplify the Air Force standards of customs and courtesies, dress and appearance, as well as personal conduct in order to

represent Dyess and the Air Force.

"While we do want sharp Airmen to join the honor guard, the biggest factor is that the person wants to be here and be a part of this team," said Tech. Sgt. Erik Reed, Dyess Honor Guard NCO in-charge. "The honor guard changes attitudes and can make even a so-so Airman into a better one."

The team covers military funerals and other ceremonial support in 38 Texas counties that stretch more than 110,000 square miles.

As an incentive, an honor guard member is eligible to receive an Air Force Achievement Medal.



**Members of the Dyess Honor Guard Bravo flight fire three volleys into the air during a funeral service's 21-gun salute.**



Members of the 55th Services Squadron erect a TEMPER tent for training.



Members of the 55th Services Squadron assemble the frame of a TEMPER tent for training behind Dyess Hall.

## 55th SVS train for deployment



Fifteen 55th Services Squadron members at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., trained for deployment by building Tent, Extendable, Modular, Personnel tents, commonly referred to as TEMPER tents, recently outside Dyess Hall. The 55th SVS members are required to train for deployment every 20 months, and service members are scheduled to coincide with their Air Expeditionary Force cycles. Training is conducted on a quarterly basis and covers tent building, mortuary affairs and the use of field fire-heated equipment.

TEMPER tents are used on deployment for field lodging or any activity needing shelter in austere locations. The tents are typically used in the initial setup of a base.



Above left, Airman 1st Class Robby Don, food service specialist, and Tech Sgt. David Krugman, store room manager, assemble the frame of a temper tent.

Below left, Airman 1st Class Ariell Henry, a fitness specialist with the 55th Services Squadron, and Airman 1st Class David Mcalpine, a food services specialist with the same unit, secure the "Fly" while erecting a services tent during a recent training session.



# Vance children celebrate month with books, bowling

By Katy Drost  
71st Services Marketing

Vance Air Force Base, Okla., Services facilities hosted special events recently to help honor military children during a month dedicated specifically to them.

Children from the child development center bowled for free at the Vance bowling center, an event that also included parental participation.

"We hosted about 20 CDC children for several games of bowling and fun," said Ken Broder, bowling center supervisor. "The Month of the Military Child is one avenue to let the children of our military personnel learn foundational bowling techniques at an early age."

The base library also hosted guest readers during daily story hours, inviting CDC children to hear a variety of stories.

The week-long story times were held in conjunction with National Library Week, said librarian Mary Arthur.



Sherrie Benson, wife of Col. Bryan Benson, 71st Flying Training Wing commander, reads to child development center children at the Vance Air Force Base, Okla., Library. Photo by Katy Drost

"The CDC is the greatest source of children we have that come to story time," she said. "On Wednesday, Mrs. Benson brought a lunch box that had candy in it, which they were able to eat as a treat after lunch," Ms. Arthur said.

Services director Diane McCurdy said it was important for facilities to

coordinate events. "By having events at the bowling center and the library, children and their parents can see Services' dedication to our military families," Ms. McCurdy said. "Our facilities understand the unique dynamics of the military lifestyle, and we keep this in mind in planning activities."

## *Listen, learn*

Brig. Gen. Gregory Ihde, 57th Wing commander, reads to children at the Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Library during Nevada Reading Week. Courtesy photo







Walter Wilent takes a break from gardening at the Niko Niko Child Development Center to pose for the camera during the recent EarthFest 2005 at Kadena Air Base, Japan. Children from the Niko Niko CDC preschool class three celebrated Earth Day by planting mustard and radish seeds, and pulling weeds and rocks from the Child Development Center's garden.



Above, 2-year-old Justin Barthold plays a car wash game during Earthfest while his father, Master Sgt. Joseph Barthold, Detachment 1, 554th Red Horse Squadron, cheers him on. Photo by Staff Sgt. C.E. Campbell



Kennady McNeill, daughter of Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth McNeill of the 18th Component Maintenance Squadron, plays in a puddle after 18<sup>th</sup> Services officials cancelled afternoon Earthfest activities due to heavy rain. Photo by Staff Sgt. C.E. Campbell



Left, 2-year-old Emily Coates tries to throw a hula hoop around a bucket with the help of her father, Petty Officer 1st Class Chris Coates, during the 18th Services Squadron's Earthfest 2005 at Marek Park. Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephanie Sinclair

# Reading brings medieval flair to Nellis library

By Dale Mitcham  
99<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron

Fair maidens, knights in shining armor and dragons layed siege to the kingdom of Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., when the library summer reading program kicked off at the sports pavilion. The theme for the 2005 program is "Joust to Read."

The continuing theme for the summer reading program is medieval times, according to Gail Santy, children's library technician. All participants were greeted by the renaissance fair king and queen and learned the secrets of the land. After the opening ceremony, citizens were treated to a medieval tournament. "Combatants regaled in full-body armor or chain mail battled with swords and rapiers," Ms. Santy said.

Following the spectacles, participants scoured the

countryside in search of fun and adventure in the form of outdoor games and table games, including chess. A dubbing ceremony for all youths in attendance wrapped up the event. The title of "Royal Reader" was bestowed upon them, according to Ms. Santy.

Attendees received a free gift and a chance to win prizes by entering a contest. The contestants competed in three categories ranging from pre- and early readers to adults for a prize basket. The basket contained books and other goodies.

"The fair is just the beginning for our summer reading program. Each Saturday throughout the summer, the library will host a reading program for school-aged children," Ms. Santy noted that children must sign up in advance to participate in the special



program. "In keeping with the medieval theme, projects will include children designing their own coat of arms, making butter, and an archery demonstration," she said. This program is in addition to the weekly Wednesday reading program that takes place from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. in the library.

"All activities including crafts for story time throughout summer will have the same theme featuring kings, queens, dragons and wizards. This will allow even the youngest children to be involved in the program," she continued.

A new wrinkle for this year's program is the addition of an adult reading program.

"The aim of this program is to provide children with role models who have positive

reading habits. We believe that children emulate the behavior they see," Ms. Santy said. "Any adult can be a positive influence on a child. We understand that because of deployments or other work-related situations, a parent might not be the reading role model. Grandparents or other care givers could be fulfilling that role."

Adults participating in the program are eligible to receive a reward for their efforts. Each week, one adult participating in the program will receive a \$25 gift certificate courtesy of the Nellis commissary. The recipient must be authorized to use the commissary.

Children in the "read to me"

category and those who can read for themselves can also earn rewards throughout the summer. Completing at least five books and a project for each book, makes the child eligible for a reward. "We don't want to do boring book reports, but fun things," Ms. Santy said. "The reader can draw a picture of their favorite character or scene. They could even dress up as one of the characters."

Once the project is finished, the participant gets to dig into the treasure bin and pick out their reward. In addition, the reader may also select a book to keep from the library's book cart as an extra reward.



# Misawa celebrates military children

"Sparky the Dog" hugs children during his visit to the Zeamer Child Development Center at Misawa Air Base, Japan, recently as part of the Month of the Military Child. The month of April was designated as a time to recognize the children in the community and how they are important to the success of the mission. The Cheli School Age Program, Yoiko and Zeamer child development centers, Lunney Youth Center and Wakasa Teen Center dedicated special activities and programs to Misawa's youngest members. Photo by Staff Sgt. Louis Rivers



## ***Sheppard parade marches***

Members of the Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, Youth Center ham it up for a photo during the recent Month of the Military Child parade. Photo by Mike Litteken



Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Missel, 35<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing command chief, lends a hand as children from Yoiko Child Development Center take part in a recent parade. Photo by Master Sgt. Brad Sprague





# Cannon kite carnival takes flight in breezy N.M. High Plains

An "Ollie the Octopus" kite flown by Bruce DeFoor of Clovis, N.M., looms over the field during the second annual Kite Karnival at Doc Stewart Park. Mr. DeFoor said he has a collection of at least 175 kites. CNJ staff photo by Eric Kluth

**By Ryn Gargulinski:**  
Clovis News Journal  
staff writer

Don't worry, it wasn't a drug-induced hallucination. The humongous purple blowfish and giant green octopus waving in the air at Doc Stewart Park at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., were part of the second annual Kite Karnival held across the highway from Cannon Air Force Base.

The event featured dozens of kites, a handful of sponsors, and hundreds of kite enthusiasts of all ages and levels.

"We're having a blast," said Clovis resident Margie Cartwright, a former military wife who was there with her daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren. "The highlight for me is watching my grandbabies," Ms. Cartwright said, while beaming as 2-year-old Autumn hooked a string to her bright yellow flyer.

George Romero, also a Clovis resident, attended the event with his wife and four children.

"On a windy day kids used to stay inside," he said. "Now they can go

outside and have some fun."

Mr. Romero was lined up for the wind sprint competition where contestants get a shot to see whose kite goes the farthest in a second.

To the left of Mr. Romero in the wind sprint line was Jane Finch and her son Brian, who turned 8 today. "It's neat," he said as he held the line tight on his self-made vampire kite.

Sheri Hayes, community center director and special events coordinator for Cannon, came up with the idea of a kite carnival.

"It just made sense," she said. "It's always windy in New Mexico.

The carnival had about three times the people as last year, officials said, peaking at its 10 a.m. kick-off with roughly 400.

"We like the free things," said Ralph Elliot, a chaplain at Cannon who was there with his three kids. Mr. Elliot was holding a kite they won from knowing the password "windy," while his brood were busy coloring dinosaurs and "modern art" in the free kite making booth.

By far the favored kite was the great green octopus, who even has a name.

"Ollie is the crowd-pleaser," said Bruce DeFoor, who

calls himself the "Clovis Kite Man." Mr. DeFoor and his wife Beth have a collection of at least 175 kites for which they had to build a special storage area in their garage.

Attendees could always take a break to check out the free rides or a game of bean toss or paint ball.

"Everything is reasonably priced — 25 cents — or free," said Gabriel Velasquez as he sat stringing a ladybug kite for his daughter, Autumn. Mr. Velasquez said he will definitely attend the event next year because it's an ideal place for a family to have fun.



# Travis Honor Guard mentors students

From right to left: Cadet Master Sgt. Michelle Chiaravalle, Cadet Senior Airman Angela Spicer, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Desiree Spicer and Cadet Staff Sgt. Nicole Cook are part of the rifle team at Vanden High School. Members of Travis' Honor Guard teach students at Vanden High School how to march, be part of a team and develop leadership skills as part of the school's color guard program. Courtesy photo

**By Jennifer Brugman**  
Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Public Affairs

Representatives from the Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Honor Guard are helping local high school students learn leadership skills and teamwork.

"I've learned a lot of leadership responsibilities and how to run a team," said Michelle Chiaravalle, a Vanden High School ROTC cadet and color guard member. "It teaches you how to improvise to make things happen."

Staff Sgt. Paul Ellis, 60th Medical Diagnostics and Therapeutic Squadron and a Travis Honor Guard member, has been teaching the color guard at Vanden for two and a half years.

The class is two to three days a week for an hour or two after school. Sergeant Ellis instructs a

12-man-team with 18 to 20 people.

"I love it," he said. "I think it's fun. You see people walk in who never thought they could do it and three months later they're teaching someone else."

While the cadets, ages 14-18, learn spinning, marching, military traditions and regulations, their most valuable lesson is teamwork.

"I like seeing a group of Type A personalities put aside their egos to work together," Sergeant Ellis said. "I teach them about being a leader. Out there, everyone's looking at you, and you need accept each other, put aside your differences to work as one."

Trust is also an important part of the team. The rifles the cadets use are eight and a half pounds and can spin up to 60 mph.

When the team orchestrates a blind catch, each member has to trust that the other person will put the rifle directly into their hands.

"They get cuts, bruises and dings," Sergeant Ellis said. "They've experienced it all. I have people from every walk of life in that drill team and they work as one."

The team recently took third place in armed regulations during a competition in Southern California.

"It's a once in a lifetime experience," Cadet Chiaravalle said. "It's wonderful to see the audience's faces and see how impressed they are."

## 35th SVS prepares for next PACAF Pentathalon

**By Airman 1st Class Terri Barriere  
35th Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

With the Pacific Air Forces 2005 Pentathlon program gearing up, the 35th Services Squadron is gearing up, too.

The command-wide rewards program is a virtual board game played on-line with game pieces earned from Services locations. Game pieces can be earned by taking a class, booking a tour with Information, Tickets and Tours, checking out a library book, attending a club membership event or any of the many activities on the program's Master Events list.

Participants register their game pieces at [www.pacfive.com](http://www.pacfive.com) and play to win cash, electronics, trips and more.

Services based the game on a pentathlon because of the five geographic regions in the command

and based the game on activities depicting sports popular in those areas.

By competing, participants can win instant prizes and become eligible for prize drawings like cruises.

Thanks to the Services' 2004 "PACAF Pentathalon" program, Maj. Wendell Brenneman, 35th Fighter Wing chaplain, and his wife had the vacation of a lifetime this past year aboard Norwegian Cruise Line America's "Pride of Aloha."

The Brennemans learned about the Pentathlon through posters and flyers displayed in facilities around their base.

"People knew I was playing because I was fairly aggressive about getting the game pieces," Major Brenneman said.

The Brennemans were a team. Mrs. Brenneman made sure to stop by the frame shop when game pieces were up for grabs. The

major visited the wood shop on Fridays and they always ate lunch at the Services restaurant giving away game pieces that day.

Their goal was to get through the entire game. Winning the grand prize was an unexpected bonus. The package included lodging, air fare and seven days aboard the *Pride of Aloha*, Norwegian Cruise Line, America's first U.S. flag ship. The itinerary included stops at four islands, where the Brennemans participated in exciting shore excursions.

"We had never been on a cruise before," said Major Brenneman. "It's a great way to vacation. They wine and dine you."

"I think it's important to get out and use Services programs. There's so much available if you just get out. People take the benefits we have in Services for granted," said the major.

The program began Aug. 1.

### Got ITT?

Airman 1st Class Josh Davis and 2nd Lt. Cheri Guikema, both from the 325th Mission Support Squadron, chat with Shelly Kujawa, a travel sales coordinator, during the recent Information, Tickets & Tours travel show at the Enlisted Club. Hundreds of Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Airmen and family members attended the annual event to learn more about travel opportunities from more than 65 travel representatives. Photo by 2nd Lt. William Powell





## *They even have dog tags issued*

# 50 Seymour Johnson children experience a deployment line

**By Airman Frank Snider**  
**Weymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.,**  
**Public Affairs**

Team Seymour prepared almost 50 people to deploy recently, only these

people weren't Airmen. In fact, they're still in grade school.

"We wanted to give children a chance to see what their parents go through as they prepare to deploy,"

said Tech. Sgt. Cindy Hartsfield, the project manager. "We treated the children as though they were getting ready for a real deployment."

For the last four years, the family

support center has held a mock deployment line for the children of Airmen.

The children experience many of the things a deploying Airman would go through, from trying on chemical protective equipment to boarding a KC-135R Stratotanker.

To help the children feel more like Airmen, they were given a set of personalized dog tags to wear during their "deployment."

As the children concluded their three-hour tour, they were treated to a homecoming much like the ones Airmen receive after departing the bus at the community center, complete with homemade banners and waving flags.

"The whole deployment was very informative and fun," said Bobbi Hosmon, mother of a 2-year-old daughter who "deployed."

"Even though she is so young, she's

always asking about her dad when he's away. Getting a chance to see everything he goes through when he's getting ready to deploy shows us how prepared (the Air Force) makes him, especially now," she said.

Mrs. Hosmon and her daughter are visiting her grandparents at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., while her father, Staff Sgt. Michael Hosmon of the 88th Security Forces Squadron from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, is deployed to Southwest Asia.

"Most of the children's parents have described what they do before they get deployed," Sgt. Hartsfield said. "It's one thing to talk about deploying, but when the children experience it firsthand, the level of understanding they receive far surpasses what words alone can do."



Col. Michael Duvall, 4<sup>th</sup> Operations Group commander at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., zips his 10-year-old daughter into a sleeping bag while other children watch. Photo by Airman Frank Snider



**By Master Sgt. Brian Orban**  
Kunsan Air Base,  
Korea, Public Affairs

Stepping out and learning the Korean culture is just a bus ride away courtesy of orientation tours offered by the Kunsan Air Base, Korea, Family Support Center.

Each month the center takes groups of people into town using local transportation to introduce members of the Wolf Pack to cultural attractions, parks and recreation areas, in addition to local shopping and restaurant districts.

Armed with maps, bus schedules and a tour guide fluent in the local language, those new to the base get their feet wet without the worry of getting lost.

"By the end of the day, you will feel comfortable getting out and about on your own," said Kim Sonkyong from the FSC, who also serves as one of the center's tour guides.

Each week's orientation begins with a visit to the Heung Cheon Buddhist Temple, one of several Buddhist temples in the Kunsan area. While on the temple grounds, guests may encounter monks tending to their duties or meditating in the main temple. Monks may even teach their American visitors some of the customs and courtesies associated with this religion.

The tour then winds its way through nearby Wolmyeong Park. The park features

several miles of walking and jogging trails along with panoramic views of Changhang City across the harbor.

During the Saturday visits, travelers climb several flights of stairs to reach the Soldiers Memorial dedicated in memory of those who fought during the Korean War.

Another key sight is the Kunsan Flame, or Susi Tower, built in memory of the 1919 Independence Movement. The park's path continues past the Maritime Sculpture Park featuring rest stops for weary travelers or those wanting to view the harbor.

Following a lunch break with local Korean cuisine, the tour continues through the Yeon-Dong Street shop-

## FSC tours help orient Wolf Pack to life in Korea

Members of the Wolf Pack make their way to the Hung Cheon Buddhist Temple, one of several Buddhist temples in the Kunsan area. The temple is one of several Family Support Center's walking tour destinations in Kunsan City. Photos by Master Sgt. Brian Orban

ping district, which includes clothing shops, American-style fast food restaurants and local movie theaters.

"By the end of the day, I felt con-

fident that I can take the public bus and find my way around in downtown Gunsan City," said Master Sgt. Billie Hayden, 8<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron first sergeant.



Reaching places like Susi Monument in Wolmyeong Park requires climbing multiple flights of stairs.

# Dover Outdoor Adventure Program returns

By April Crampton  
436<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron

The Dover Air Force Base, Del., Outdoor Adventure Program started out with a colorful bang during a paintball trip to the Poconos.

"Paintball is one of the new trips we added to our list," said Dave Sawicki, 436<sup>th</sup> Outdoor Recreation manager. "We have exciting trips planned to participate in this summer and some back by popular demand."

"The Outdoor Adventure program is designed to plan trips that are physically exciting and challenging," said Bob Spragg, 436<sup>th</sup> Community Support flight chief. "In addition, the program provides fitness education by showing the physical benefits of the sport and instructs each participant on safety and proper equipment usage. We provide the trip leadership, information, equipment and encouragement."

According to Mr. Sawicki, the trips selected were based on customer recommendations,



Dover Air Force Base, Del., team members take a break from paintball to pose on top of a tank at Skirmish Paintball in the Poconos. Courtesy photo

experience and expertise of the OR staff and base volunteers.

"Our trips include whitewater rafting in Pennsylvania, paintball, mountain biking in northern Delaware, hiking the Delaware State Parks, canoeing in Maryland, tubing in the Upper Delaware River, pedals to paddles in the Poconos and fishing," said Mr. Sawicki. "The program runs between April and October and costs \$10 and up."

"We have added more fishing trips and new activities, such as the paintball and trail challenges," said Mr. Sawicki.

Mr. Sawicki explained that many of the trips are physically and mentally challenging and require an elevated level of physical fitness and endurance as well as risk; therefore some trips will have age restrictions.

"The trips also provide an opportunity for environmental and wildlife appreciation," said Mr. Sawicki. "We practice a 'leave no trace' policy that focuses on packing out everything you took in; leave as little impact on the environment as possible. We really want to help participants experience nature in a different way."

Registrations and sign-ups are completed at Outdoor Recreation, Building 124, and are open to all Department of Defense identification card holders.

"Sign-ups are on a first come, first serve basis," said Mr. Sawicki. "The trips have a limited number of participants to ensure safety ratios and enhance the quality of the experience for our customers."





Lackland Honor Guard pallbearers remove a flag-draped casket from a hearse, at right, in this overhead shot that was filmed by the 37th Communications Squadron. The funeral depiction is for an honor guard mission video being produced by the 37th CS.

**Story and photo by  
James Coburn  
Lackland Air Force  
Base, Texa, Public  
Affairs**

Members of the Lackland Honor Guard soon will be starring in a video shown to first-term Airmen and various other groups on base in an effort to recruit new honor guard members.

For the past several weeks, "Combat Camera" crews from the 37th Communications Squadron have been shooting action sequences of the honor guard practicing their precision maneuvers at locations around Lackland.

Second Lt. Navann Huoth, 37th CS, is producer and

director of what he anticipates will be a 3- to 5-minute mission briefing on the Lackland Honor Guard.

"We need honor guard personnel due to deployments, PCSing and members having their volunteer commitment to honor guard being over after a year," said Tech. Sgt. Herman Ybarra,

# Lackland Honor Guard video in works

NCO in charge of the 55-member unit.

He said the unit is looking for airmen basic through technical sergeants.

"Our primary mission is to render military funeral honors for Air Force veterans, retirees and active-duty deaths," Sergeant Ybarra said.

The unit provided military honors for 558 funeral ceremonies last year.

Lieutenant Huoth expects the honor

guard mission video to be edited and ready for showing soon.

He said it will show the Lackland Honor Guard practicing for their primary mission as well as the drill team in action, honor guard members conducting a POW/MIA ceremony and interviews with Sergeant Ybarra and other unit leaders and members.

## Hennessy Trophy on display

The Hennessy Trophy came home to roost at the Thunderbird Inn during a June celebration at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

Tech. Sgt. Brenda McLain, 377th Services Squadron food services superintendent, and the staff of the Thunderbird put the trophy on display along with decorations, a mariachi band, noise

makers and a cake to recognize the dining facility winning the trophy.

The trophy, presented annually to the best dining facility in the Air Force by the National Restaurant Association, the Society of Food Service Management and the International Food Services Executives, was won this year by the Thunderbird Inn and food service contractor Vick's Vittles.

A team from the services squadron, the dining facility and Vick's Vittles was led by Col. Hank Andrews, 377th Air Base Wing commander, to Chicago to receive the trophy during the National Restaurant Association meeting and exposition in May.

The award is named after an industry leader assigned to the Hoover Commission charged with improving military food service.

## A News & Views commentary

# Importance of 'paying it forward'

**By Master Sgt. Bryon Nelson**  
**379th Expeditionary Services Squadron**  
**Food Service Flight**  
**chief Southwest Asia**

When you were a child or young adult, was there someone in your life — a teacher, neighbor, relative, coach, friend or boss who encouraged you, showed you the ropes and helped you become who you are today? That was a mentor.

We bring a wide range of life experiences to our mentoring relationships. As a result, we are a wonderful source of advice and information. Regardless of our background, the greatest gift we may offer anyone, especially to our young people, is a genuine interest in their life and our willingness to listen attentively and provide quality, focused feedback. As a mentor we can offer the consistent opportunity to talk with and share their wants, needs and expectations.

My parents were my first mentors and are still critically important to me. They believed that the greatest rewards for work well done were in a job well done. They have a kind of inherent modesty about them and a dedicated work ethic — something I try to emulate every day.

To be a mentor you don't require any special skills. Think back to the positive words from one of your mentors and remember the wonderful sensation of someone taking a vested interest in your future.

My whole philosophy of how an Airman fits into the "Big Picture" of the Air Force mission was blown away when Tech. Sgt. Milton Hobdy stated, "Airman Nelson, you are accountable to the Air Force." As a senior airman I had no idea what he meant at the time. I know now it was his way of stoking the fire of determination I had deep within my soul. That

comment continues to drive me today!

I believe mentorship can be defined in three vital areas: advice, access and advocacy.

### **Advice:**

From time to time, your "mentee" may need a second opinion or a different perspective; you can provide that critical link. When offering advice, however, recall life experiences good and bad to provide an objective point of view and offer a myriad of quality choices.

Most importantly, listen intently to their precious point of view — it connects the mentorship bond.

### **Access:**

One of the most valuable things you can do is help connect your "mentee" with other people, opportunities and information that is otherwise out of their reach.

That's what access is all about — helping people find an avenue to get involved in new situations or find

additional resources that will help them grow personally and professionally.

### **Advocacy:**

You can be an advocate for your "mentee." In other words, work on their behalf to get them the recognition they deserve or the resources they need to resolve issues or challenges.

You will have to create opportunities to get to know your "mentee" as a person and find his or her goals and define them.

The more you learn about them, the stronger an advocate you can be for their success and assist them in completing the whole person concept.

People are successful for a lot of reasons, but I hold steadfast to the grounding effect of mentorship and the success that comes from this nurturing relationship. I don't think there's any richer reward in life than helping someone.

You can't measure it in money or fame or anything else. But if we're not put here for anything else but to help each other get through life, I think that's a very honorable existence.

As professional warriors it's more than our duty to be mentors, it's a dedicated calling.

The very fibers of our existence have been woven by at least one memorable mentor and now it's our obligation to "pay it forward."

Mentors come in many forms. My Airmen mentor me every day, and I thank them for their valuable time. Mentors are the life rafts for the successful future of our Air Force.

We all need to offer the guidance that defines quality mentorship — our personal and professional success depends on each other.

# NEWS & VIEWS PEOPLE



## Anna Rogers is a Rising Star

Anna Rogers was named 2005 Youth of the Year at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., for her selfless attitude, work in the community, school academics and athletics, among other considerations. She is a freshman at Eau Gallie High School and has been involved in Air Force Youth Center programs for five years. Photo by Rowena Rogers

**By Theresa Amlong**  
45th Services Squadron

Anna Rogers leads by example.

Whether it is coordinating basketball tournaments for teens, volunteering her time to help out at base events, or singing with her church's praise team, this 16-year-old Patrick Youth Center member sets an example of admirable behavior for others.

This exemplary behavior has led Anna Rogers to be named Patrick's Youth of the Year for 2005.

"We look for people who demonstrate good character as well as leadership," said Lynne Phillips, program director for 45th Services Family Member Programs. "Anna makes everyone feel wel-

come at Youth Center programs, is courteous and demonstrates eagerness to take advantage of growth opportunities."

Anna, a freshman at Eau Gallie High School, has been involved in Youth Center programs for five years. She is on the school Junior Varsity Basketball team; belongs to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes; and is vice president of the Keystone Club.

"She helps her mom with chores, respects her parents and their guidelines, is a strong student and participates with family in church activities," said Ms. Phillips. "Anna is involved in community projects, such as helping to raise food for donations to local homeless shelters, has de-

livered the invocation for the opening ceremony at Youth Baseball and has assisted the drama counselor on implementing summer drama programs for younger children. Anna is clearly a people-person."

"Being a Youth Center member allows me to interact with kids of all ages and learn from them," said Anna.

Anna, daughter of retired Master Sgt. Larry Rogers and Rowena Rogers, plans to add the title of Youth of the Year to her resume and hopes it will aid her in attaining a Bright Future Scholarship through her school to help with college funding.

"Basketball is my favorite activity and I hope to attend the University of North Carolina on a scholarship," said

Anna. "I'm going into law, like my grandpa."

This annual Youth of the Year program is designed to strengthen character and leadership competencies and promote and recognize the accomplishments of Boys & Girls Club members ages 14-18 who have demonstrated service to their club and their community, have a positive moral compass, achieved academic excellence and who contribute to family life.

As the winner of the Patrick competition, Anna will compete against other Air Force Boys and Girls Club youth for the title of Space Command Youth of the Year and will attend the Air Force Teen Forum in Washington D.C. this summer.



# Boys & Girls Club honors Dover youth

By April Crampton  
436th Services  
Squadron

During the Boys & Girls Club of Delaware's Youth of the Year luncheon at Delaware Technical and Community College, Gregory McCulley, 18, was named Dover Air Force Base Club's Youth of the Year.

"Gregory was selected as our Youth of the Year for his leadership skills, mentoring grades in school and who he is," said Roxanne Lee, Youth Center assistant director. "He has over 100 hours of community service."

Since age six, Mr. McCulley has taken

advantage of the services available at the Youth Center.

"He plays on the YC's basketball, soccer and baseball teams as well as coaches the younger children," said Gary Winings, YC director.

According to Ms. Lee, Mr. McCulley participates in Adopt-a-highway, mentors disabled elementary school students and serves as head coach for the Delaware State Police basketball league.

Mr. McCulley is a senior at Caesar Rodney High School and a member of DECA, student council, Unity Club, Letterman Club, plays varsity football

and basketball and runs track and field.

Mr. McCulley has been on the academic honor roll for three consecutive years. He has received a football scholarship to West Chester University and on April 14 he accepted the Zimmerman Scholarship from the Boys & Girls Club of Delaware.

"College is the foundation of success," said Mr. McCulley. "I want to become an educator after I graduate."

"We are very proud of all of Gregory's achievements," said Ms. Lee. "He is an inspiration to others."



Gregory McCulley, 18, reads to children at the youth center. Courtesy photo



## Castilla wins Innkeeper Traveller's Award

Airman 1st Class Katrina Castilla, 355th Services Squadron, Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., inventories linen at a deployed location. Airman Castilla deployed recently in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She also won the 2004 Air Force Innkeeper Traveller's Award.

The best advice she's received in her career, she said, is "It's not about the awards and medals; it's about who you helped along the way."



Sabrina Cowan

## Randolph Services Spotlight

Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, 12th Services Division Spotlight is on Sabrina Cowan, who started working with 12th Services at Canyon Lake as a recreation aid NF-I in November 2004.

She quickly learned all of the tasks involved in the everyday operation of the office. Her ability to handle the telephone, the drive-up window, and the walk-in customers was exceptional.

During this time she stepped in when the operations clerk was not available and ensured the operation continued to run smoothly. She also accomplished the task of renewing all of the boat storage customer contracts in a timely manner.

Mrs. Cowan was promoted to operations clerk in March and has continued improving her skills and training others on office procedures to ensure efficiency and continuity.

She is a valuable team member and asset to the Randolph Recreation Park at Canyon Lake.

## Nellis lodging officer receives ACC accolade

By Dale Mitcham  
99th Services Squadron

Second Lt. Michael Edwards, 99<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron lodging officer at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., was a double winner recently with the early arrival of a healthy newborn son and a command-level award. Lieutenant Edwards was on emergency leave when he received the news of his selection as Air Combat Command's 2005 Innkeeper Traveler of the Year.

The traveler award is presented to individuals who demonstrate outstanding professionalism, dedication to customer service, and superior knowledge of Air Force lodging operations, according to ACC officials. According to Christian Peal, Nellis assistant lodging manager, "Lieutenant Edwards has demonstrated remarkable ability and awareness of lodging environment. He has been working in lodging for about five months and seems to have a total grasp of the mission and what it takes to accomplish it."

"I became a member of the lodging team in September 2004," the lieutenant from west Texas said. "I completed technical training and returned here about eight months ago. When I got back most of my time was spent familiarizing myself with the 'Golden Eagle Standards' and the Air Force Instructions relating to lodging," he said.

Lieutenant Edwards attributed his success to his co-workers. "I was surprised by the selection because I am relatively new to the field. There is a great deal of professionalism



Second Lt. Michael Edwards

and knowledge in our organization. I've drawn heavily on the experience of everyone from the lodging managers to the professional Airmen and noncommissioned officers.

"The award is more a reflection of the great staff that Nellis lodging has than me as an individual. I can always find a source to answer questions I might have about lodging or ideas to improve our organization," he concluded.

Lieutenant Edwards assists the lodging manager in providing quality lodging services by ensuring that members of the unit receive the necessary training and resources to perform their daily tasks. This contributes to mission accomplishment and quality of life for the mobile defense community by providing them with a safe, comfortable atmosphere to rest when they are not performing their missions.

He also develops management plans and directives concerning the operation of lodging assets.

## Proud to soon be an American

**By Tarsha Storey**  
Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., Public Affairs

Home. For one Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., Airman, it means two different places. One is where he was born and the other is where his heart is.

Senior Airman Jorge Gonzalez, a member of Shaw's Base Honor Guard, was born and raised in Colombia, South America. Airman Gonzalez came to the United States for the first time in 1998.

"Everything is so peaceful here. In America, you watch bad news on TV. Back in Colombia, you see it on the corner outside your house," said Airman Gonzalez.

So, instead of just enjoying America's peace and freedom, Airman Gonzalez decided to uphold them. He enlisted in the Air Force in January 2001. This meant he also started the process to naturalize to become a citizen of the United States.

During basic military training, he started the continuing process of learning the English language.

Members of his flight helped him communicate using hand gestures. Upon BMT graduation, he said he had a rudimentary knowledge of English dialogue.

After being stationed at Shaw, he said he volunteered for the Base Honor Guard as a way to honor the country he now serves.

His desire for knowledge has helped him excel in his career. He is an excellent example of leadership, professional appearance and military bearing. Tireless efforts to excel led to his selection as the



**Senior Airman Jorge Gonzalez prepares for a Base Honor Guard demonstration recently. Photo by Tarsha Storey**

Shaw Honor Guard Airman of the Month for December 2004, said Tech. Sgt. Chris Benjamin, NCO in charge of Shaw's Honor Guard.

Airman Gonzalez is set to receive his U.S. citizenship within the next two months. If everything works out, he is planning to bring his wife to the United States from Colombia as soon as possible.

"I'd like to thank Richard Downs, 20th Mission Support Squadron, for assisting me with all of my citizenship paperwork," said Airman Gonzalez.

While in Colombia, he earned two bachelor's degrees. Once he completes his current training, he plans to proceed on to earn the necessary credits to receive a U.S.-recognized bachelor's degree and go on for an Air Force commission.

"The Air Force provides many opportunities to excel. You can join, work hard and make your dreams come true," said Airman Gonzalez. "I will leave behind a legacy for my family that they never could have achieved back in my homeland. I am proud to be an American."





## Learning to Listen up

Airman 1st Class Jason Thomas, 52nd Security Forces Squadron, listens to his wife during the Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, Family Support Center's recent Mosel Marriage Retreat. Having received instruction on the preventative relationship enhancement program method of the speaker-listener technique, the Thomas' utilize this method to improve their communication skills. "It is wonderful to have such a great family network with the family support center," said Mrs. Thomas. "We are taken care of very well and tons of "thank yous" to all for the time, laughter and joy we experienced." The retreat was part of the Combat Care and Integrated Delivery System reintegration program. Photo by Janis Wood

## Services NCO receives Whiteman Spirit Award

Master Sgt. James Presley, 509th Services Squadron, received the Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Spirit Award from Col. Chris Miller, 509th Bomb Wing commander, recently.

Second Lt. Megan Davenport, 509th SVS, nominated Sergeant Presley for the award.

During the wing's two-week aggregation, Sergeant Presley made lodging reservations for deploying members at Whiteman. He also made arrangements for deploying members to have housing, fitness and recreation.

Lieutenant Davenport said Sergeant Presley sacrificed a lot of personal time for the aggregation. "Sergeant Presley exhibited initiative and outstanding selflessness," she said.

**Duty title:**  
Superintendent, plans and force management, 509th SVS.



Master Sgt. James Presley, 509th Services Squadron, receives his Whiteman Spirit award from Col. Chris Miller, 509th Bomb Wing commander. Courtesy photo

**Hometown:**  
Loveland, Colo.

**Hobbies:**  
*Hanging out with my wife and kids, watching my boys play sports, spending time with friends, fishing, bowling and motor-cycle riding.*

**Goals:**  
*To have as much positive impact on our future Air Force leaders as I can before I retire.*

**Best thing about Whiteman:**  
*It's a great place to raise my children.*

**Pet Peeves:**  
*People who always complain and never give the extra effort it takes*

*to make changes and people who say, "I can't."*

**What motivates your winning spirit?**

*My desire to change problems into solutions — whether it be providing the best customer service I can, or teaching people how to do something the correct way.*

**If you could change one thing about Whiteman, what would it be?**

*I would change the attitude of supervisors who choose not to set the example for subordinates.*

## Grand Forks' John Gorman

# Giving something back

By Patricia Stockdill  
North Dakota Outdoors Magazine

John Gorman credits his two great-uncles for teaching him the finer points of life.

Growing up in southern Indiana, Mr. Gorman tagged along on countless fishing and hunting trips. He learned how to sit still for squirrels, the right plastic worm presentation for largemouth bass and the proper set to entice a raccoon.

He held the two semi-retired gentlemen in awe, even though he and Uncle Glenn managed to occasionally get into trouble with Aunt Helen for their adventures.

Those childhood excursions shaped Mr. Gorman's love for hunting and the outdoors.

"We in the United States have a very unique hunting and fishing heritage; one that allows every person the opportunity to participate in

hunting and fishing and to harvest their own game," he said.

Mr. Gorman has traveled all over the world while serving in the military. It provided opportunities to hunt in places such as Europe, so he recognizes the differences in hunting and outdoor heritage and attitudes.

He jumped at the opportunity to become a certified North Dakota Hunter Education instructor at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.,



John Gorman busily tying flies for hooks with 2nd Lt. Amanda Stewart, a customer at the Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., outdoor recreation. Photo by Christine Davis

four years ago. "I felt a strong desire to give something back to the sport of hunting; a sport I've enjoyed immensely for nearly 50 years," he said.

The desire to give something back is a common thread woven through many volunteers who lend their talents to North Dakota Game and Fish Department education programs.

North Dakota's volunteer conservation education instructors share so much – the enjoyment derived from their particular activity, desire to teach and share with others and ability to give of themselves. People of all ages in North Dakota have so much to gain from their contributions.

Patricia Stockdill is a freelance outdoor writer.

### Talk the talk, walk the walk ...

Tech. Sgt. Javier Aguirre, 47th Services Division, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, is deployed to the Ziggurat of Ur, an historic site located within the outer perimeter of Ali Base, Iraq. While there, Laughlin Services Airmen provide base members organized tours of the Ziggurat with an Iraqi guide who explains the history of the entire area. At far right, he is pictured at the historic site, and at left, he is posing for a photo with the Iraqi guide in front of the site. Courtesy photos



# Hennessy winner overcame tragedy to emerge victorious

*Kirtland's Vick has taken control of every situation, has earned an AF award, along with his staff, for superior food service*

By Jan Jonas  
The Albuquerque  
Tribune

*Editor's note:  
This article is  
reprinted with  
permission from  
the Albuquerque,  
N.M., Tribune.*

The Albuquerque man whose culinary team serves up the best chow in the Air Force is on his third career and still moving.

He's also blind.

It's a journey that began when Robert Vick stepped onto an Albuquerque loading dock in 1983. That dim job site was the last thing he ever saw.

A metal pipe slammed onto the back of Vick's head. As he fell, it smacked his forehead. He put his hands up to fend off the next blow. A knife slashed across his arm. Blood dripped. He dropped onto the concrete.

Vick, then a 19-year-old student of architecture and engineering at the University of New Mexico, had to put the promise of that career behind him.

Since then, excellence has come in another area, one that has gained Mr. Vick the gratitude of thousands of Airmen. He and his staff at Vick's Vittles, contract food provider for the Thunderbird Dining Facility at Kirtland Air Force, this year were awarded the national Hennessy Trophy, given annually to the best food service program in the Air Force.

Mr. Vick got to the Thunderbird and achieved the award using tenacity and creativity.

The 1983 assault left him blind, partly deaf in one ear and partly paralyzed on one side. After months of rehabili-

tation, he entered the School of Natural Therapeutics in Albuquerque to train as a massage therapist.

"It was like I went to my own little day care," he said. "Students volunteered to read books for me."

Administering massage was therapeutic, building up muscle and giving him back most of the use of his left arm. Mr. Vick opened his own business, Stress Management Specialists.

Four years later, he was a passenger in a car that was T-boned by another vehicle. His right shoulder was crushed. Thus ended another career.

The New Mexico Commission for the Blind had programs available for him since the assault, but Mr. Vick thought there was some sort

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**“When you reach perfection, the next day you’re already thinking of stuff to do.”**  
**-- Robert Vick**

---

of catch. Now he was ready to turn to them.

"He agreed to let us put him in the Business Enterprise program," said Art Schreiber, chairman of the commission and president of the National Federation of the Blind of New Mexico.

The first business the commission put Vick into was a small vending stand in Los Alamos, Mr. Schreiber said.

When Mr. Vick first got there, the business was bringing in about \$75 a day, he said.

"I walked in, and they had newspa-

pers on the floor, because it was so greasy. Then I was really depressed," he said. "I couldn't believe it. I kind of got over the initial stress. I thought, 'I can turn that around. I can prove myself.'"

His family helped clean the space and build it to his specifications so he could function well.

Within three months, Mr. Vick was doing about \$1,200 a day, he said.

He trained someone to take

**Continued on next page**





Cathy San Antonio and her children relax at home.  
Courtesy photo

## Randolph Making a Difference Award

Randolph Air Force Base, Texas' Making a Difference Award goes to Family Child Care Provider, Cathy San Antonio who is very enthusiastic about her position as a licensed developmental Family Child Care provider. The Long Beach, Miss., native is married to Air Force Master Sgt. Garry San Antonio of Air Education and Training Command headquarters and has long been a neighborhood caretaker of children at duty stations worldwide. Mrs. San Antonio became a licensed provider two-and-a-half years ago because she missed having small children at her home.

The San Antonios are parents to three children, including a set of twins. Mrs. San Antonio currently cares for two children full-time and three children part-time. The cheerful care provider was awarded a MAD t-shirt for receiving positive comments from parents for the exceptional care she provides their children.

## Kirtland's Vick

*continued from Page 42*

over and started a series of other food-service operations, each time making them successful, then turning them over to someone else.

He moved back to Albuquerque, took culinary classes at TVI and began teaching there.

The contract at Kirtland, which specifies employment of people with disabilities, came for Mr. Vick and his staff of 52 through the

Commission for the Blind in 2002.

Thirty-two of his workers have a disability.

The Air Force inspection team that judged the cuisine got a sample of the same treats the Kirtland airmen get every day: Mongolian barbecue, fresh-baked pies and cakes, espresso, a salad bar, and hamburgers and fries.

The prime rib served three Wed-

nesday nights a month is a favorite and brings in lots of hungry Airmen. At a recent meal, half a dozen Airmen having pizza, roast beef and spaghetti didn't speak until the first several bites were gone. For them, it's all-you-can-eat dining excellence, and they chow down.

That morning Mr. Vick asked 2nd Lt. Rose Richeson, a spokeswoman for Kirtland, to stay for lunch. She hesitated. Then Lieutenant Richeson asked if she could come back and bring the

staff of the public information office with her. After inhaling the food's aroma, she wanted a real taste test.

The road to the Hennessy award began almost as soon as Mr. Vick got the contract.

The Hennessy inspection team, in addition to checking out the chow, looked at kitchen operations for cleanliness, staff training and knowledge, maintenance and bookkeeping.

Antoinette Griego, head baker and supervisor at the Thunderbird

Dining Facility, has worked there for five years. She said she likes working for Mr. Vick because "he asks you to go above and beyond everything we do."

Mr. Vick is proud of his staff, and they're proud to work for him, Ms. Griego said. They're most proud to be named the Air Force's best.

Neither Mr. Vick nor Vick's Vittles is finished with trying and achieving.

"When you reach perfection," he said, "the next day you're already thinking of stuff to do."



# Frenzied pace keeps Brooks youth sports director jumping

**By Kendahl Johnson**  
**Brooks City-Base, Texas, Public Affairs**

Some people talk the talk, while others walk the walk. For Brooks City-Base, Texas, youth sports director Larry Flores, it's about getting the job done. His unwavering commitment to providing athletic opportunities for youth leaves little time for words and just enough time for action.

For more than a decade, Mr. Flores has sacrificed countless hours of sleep and much time away from an understanding and supportive family to manage a highly successful youth sports program.

"It's hard sometimes because of all the hours I put into the job," Mr. Flores said. "Fortunately, my wife is very supportive."

On most weekends, he can be seen scampering around the base's

athletic venues, paying attention to the small details that make his programs successful.

"I like to make it nice, especially for the kids. I want them to be recognized," said Mr. Flores. The "nice" part to which he refers translates into picking up trash and debris to get playing fields ready, hauling and setting up equipment, creating league and post-season schedules, issuing uniforms, recruiting and providing training for players, coaches and parent volunteers and spending more time on the phone than telemarketers while coordinating an endless number of sports-related activities. He also schedules team photo sessions and organizes postseason sports awards banquets and picnics, writes newspaper copy for event and promotions and arranges for event concessions and awards.

As much as he enjoys sports, he never got an opportunity to partici-

pate in athletics until after he enlisted in the Air Force. "It was too far to walk home if I had stayed after school to participate in sports," said Mr. Flores, who lived on a farm about 12 miles from Floresville. The youngest of seven children, he was born in 1953. His father was a professional bricklayer and his mother a homemaker. He joined the Air Force after graduating from Floresville High School in 1972.

He decided to join the Air Force, giving him a options other than farming. His military career was law enforcement, with his first assignment at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas. From there, he went to the Phillipines, followed by a stint at Altus AFB, Okla. In 1978, he came to Brooks for the first time. After three years, he left for a tour in Germany. He then returned to Brooks in 1985. He was able to stay at Brooks for a longer-than-normal duration thanks to a six-month remote tour in Egypt.

In 1994, the part-time youth sports director position opened up

**Continued on next page**

# Flores leads by example

*continued from Page 44*

at the youth center. Mr. Flores was already heavily involved with the youth, working as a coach for his son's baseball team.

Because he had developed a reputation as a dependable youth sports volunteer, he was offered the job. He decided to accept. "I figured, I am here all the time anyway, I might as well get paid for it," he said.

When the former master sergeant retired from the Air Force in 1996 after a 24-year career, he took over the youth program full-time as a Non-Appropriated Fund employee.

He attributes a lot of his current success to his military background. Enlisting in the Air Force gave him a chance to play Air Force intramural sports. He specialized in softball, a sport he also promoted during the last 10 years of his career. That tourney gave Mr. Flores both the experience and motivation to stage future special events.

"Working in law enforcement helped me learn how to deal with people," he said. "It has helped me in this job because you are continually dealing with parents, coaches and kids. Dealing with so many different people can be difficult at times."

Currently, Mr. Flores is involved with youth basketball. He is responsible for the organization of a 14-team league, with more than 120 youth participants. Next, he will organize baseball, followed by swimming then football. Then basketball starts again.

"We have sports going year round," he said. "You get into a routine. I thought I might get burned out on it but it's different

every season. The parents and kids keep me going."

He knows the importance of coaches and is grateful to be working with terrific volunteers. "Coaches make a big difference in their lives," he said. "They are the role models. The coaches are all volunteers and without volunteers, you wouldn't have a program."

Mr. Flores has introduced numerous special events to the Brooks youth sports program include Operation Nite Hoops; the National Youth Games that features swimming, basketball, soccer and track and field; the Kids Sports Network Basketball Jamboree; baseball Hit-Athon and "Hot Shot" two-ball basketball.

The most memorable event he helped arrange was a special ceremony in 2000 that involved former 311th Human Systems Wing commander Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd. For the only time in Brooks sports history, a player's jersey was retired. The event honored 14-year-old Charles "Moose" Dickinson III, who was killed by a hit-and-run driver. General Dodd presented the jersey to the boy's parents at halftime during homecoming for their son's former senior tackle football team — the Brooks Eagles.

Mr. Flores' rigorous schedule doesn't seem to get him down, because he enjoys what he does. He said he feels he is making a difference with the young boys and girls he works with and that providing opportunities for youth helps keep them busy and out of trouble. "When dealing with youth, every positive thing you do helps make a difference in their lives," he said.



Patricia Jackson

## Randolph salutes Child Care provider

Family Child Care Provider Patricia Jackson has been a provider for more than two years. She moved off base in July 2004 and became a developmental affiliated provider. Mrs. Jackson is presently taking care of two children full-time and one child part-time. Mrs. Jackson is married to Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Jackson and has six children of her own ranging in ages from 5 to 18 years old. Sergeant Jackson has been in the military for 20 years and is stationed at Randolph.

Mrs. Jackson said, "We love children and our door is always open to parents in need of child care. I enjoy providing them with the opportunity to grow and learn in my child care". Mrs. Jackson's love of children makes her a valuable member of the Randolph FCC.



# Hanscom CDC welcomes courageous child home

**By Rhonda Siciliano**  
Hanscom Air Force  
Base, Mass., Public  
Affairs

Courage is the ability to face danger, difficulty, uncertainty or pain without being overcome by fear or being deflected from a chosen course of action. Courage comes in many forms and results from a variety of circumstances; this one word instantly comes to mind when looking into the big blue eyes of one particular Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., youth while watching him interact with his family and friends. This courage makes him a favorite at the Hanscom Child Care Center.

With a smile that could melt the most hardened of hearts, 4-year-old Connor Tierney has been through a lot in his short life. Connor, the son of 2nd Lt. William Tierney, Electronic Systems Center Joint STARS

program office and Staff Sgt. Jennifer Tierney, Noncommissioned Officer In Charge of the 66th Medical Group's Preventive Dentistry flight, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in 2001 when he was just 4-months-old. At the time the family was stationed at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

"For the next two years, he was essentially hospitalized as he underwent excruciating chemotherapy and two bone marrow transplants from our other son, [now 8-year-old] Tyler," said Sergeant Tierney. "He started life learning to sit up in a hospital crib, learning to pull himself to his feet in that same crib," she said. "Some of his first toys were thermometers and blood pressure cuffs. "Despite his condition, he never complained and cherished the short times when he could

be at home," Connor's mother said.

Connor left the hospital and hopefully his leukemia behind in March 2003. The Tierney family moved to Hanscom with 2-year-old Connor in February 2004. They welcomed the move but would miss the strong support received during their time at Keesler."

"We looked at this as an opportunity to put many of those bad memories behind us," Sergeant Tierney said. "Connor continued to do well here and spent his first year as a 'normal' kid — going to daycare and playing outside. His zest for life continued and we cautiously watched him grow. Along the way we've met many new friends and formed lasting relationships here at Hanscom," she said.

Two months ago, Connor faced yet another challenge when he came



**The Tierney family were welcomed back by the staff and children at the CDC. Photos by Jan Abate**

down with the flu. "Normally, although especially difficult for him to get over, he would do fine," his mother said. This time it was different. Overnight Connor's breathing was labored and he became lethargic. His parents took him to the emergency room where they discovered their son was in trouble again.

The Tierney's learned that Connor was not able to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide in his lungs. His blood was filling with carbon dioxide and he was quickly in critical condition, his mother said.

The doctors could not pinpoint the

**Continued on next page**

# Courage

*continued from Page 46*

cause, but nevertheless, Connor had to be sedated and have a breathing tube inserted down his throat enabling a machine to breathe for him.

"We watched every day as his blood would lose more and more of the built-up carbon dioxide. We could see his other vital statistics return to normal on the intensive care monitors," Sergeant Tierney said.

Connor was treated and after three weeks in the hospital, he had recovered enough to go home. "But one week later, we were right back where we started," his mother said.

This time, however, the doctors confirmed their suspicions; Connor was diagnosed with a rare lung disease called bronchiolitis obliterans, a result from his cancer treatments.

"This is what was causing his breathing troubles and he will eventually need

a lung transplant," Sergeant Tierney said.

After two more weeks on a ventilator, Connor miraculously responded to the treatments and was released.

Connor was welcomed back by his friends at the Child Development Center last week when he returned to school.

"Connor is a really sweet, pleasant and happy child. All the staff here adore him and the entire Tierney family," said Colleen Davis, Child Development Center assistant director. "Connor's positive outlook is really an inspiration to all of us."

Staff at the CDC welcomed the family back by presenting them with various items which were donated from a variety of people and companies both on- and off-base.

Among the donated items were gift cards to: sporting goods stores, toy stores, a local spa, local



**Connor gives his mother, Staff Sgt. Jennifer Tierney, a kiss at the Hanscom CDC while brother Tyler looks on.**

restaurants and a gift pack from the Boston Red Sox, which included an invitation to one of the team's home games.

"Everyone wanted to reach out and do something to support the family after all that they've been through. There really was an outpouring of support for the Tierneys from the entire Hanscom community as well as people off-base," Ms. Davis said.

"This trying period brought out the best in our Hanscom friends," Sergeant Tierney said. "We'd like to thank our commanders and supervisors, the CDC, School Age Program, Bunko girls and friends and neighbors for all your support."

"Connor is strong and we are strong for him, but when times like these occur, it is nice to have so much help, love, and prayers.

From all the meals you cooked, the cards and gifts you sent and even the time you cleaned our house, we thank you," she said.

The Tierney family is happy that Connor is doing well now. "Regardless of where life sends us or the cards we are dealt, we will always remember the friends and support we had here at Hanscom from all of you," Sergeant Tierney said.

## Wrenwoods Golf Course: *Out of the **rough** and on to the **green***

By Laura Abell  
Director, 437<sup>th</sup> Services  
Squadron Marketing

Two years ago, a major project began on Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., to renovate Wrenwoods Golf Course, including all 18 holes, the clubhouse, cart barn and driving range.

The opening of the clubhouse last month marked the end of this \$3.1 million project.

The renovation includes a new clubhouse, a larger cart barn with environmentally-friendly wash racks, new course layout with renumbered holes rebuilt to U.S. Golf Association standards, a larger and more customer-friendly Pro Shop to provide better customer service, the new Globemaster Grille offering quality food from a "state-of-the-art" kitchen, and an extended driving range with all grass tees.

Even with the changes, there is still work to be done. Wrenwoods



customers questioned the condition of the new greens, care of the bunkers, and course drainage problems. The 437<sup>th</sup> SVS determined the course was in need of more than just the re-building that had taken place.

So SVS called in an expert. They brought in Rick Boehm, a golf turf specialist, and the Air Force's agronomist (defined as an expert in soil management). He reviewed the course and developed a "Get Well Plan" for Wrenwoods staff to use to ensure an outstanding golf course experience for its customers.

Mr. Boehm's report began with the drainage issue. Numerous areas on

the fairways do not drain properly, which causes the course to be unplayable after heavy rains. Plans include beginning a re-grading of all the ditches, cleaning out culverts and installing new drain lines.

Next, the bunkers need to be rebuilt. This project may take more time than the other areas; bunkers are the second most expensive part of a golf course to maintain.

The greens, "drain wonderfully," Mr. Boehm said.

Customers expressed concerns over "bare" looking areas. This occurred as Mr. Boehm explained, because "there was not a good take of the

seed." The new greens will mature and next season's over-seeding will be completed using a better technique.

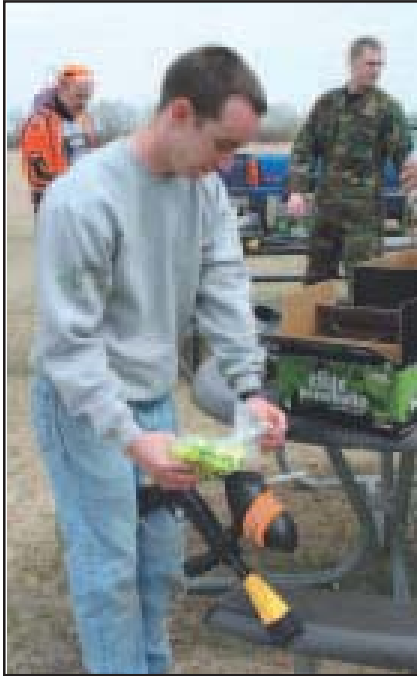
A beautification project is part of the plan. Changes will be made to spruce up the golf course in such areas as tee amenities, cart paths and the rough.

Challenges still lie ahead. As funding becomes available, Wrenwoods Golf Course customers will see many improvements.

The 437<sup>th</sup> SVS's goal is to make sure customers walk away knowing Wrenwoods Golf Course provided a rewarding and memorable golfing experience.



# Minot paintball field prepped, ready



**Capt. Charles Dozier, a flight commander from the 740th Missile Squadron, loads his paintball gun.**  
Courtesy photos

**By Debbie Bechtold**  
**5th Services Squadron**

It's that time of year to get ready for some paintball adventure. The Minot Air Force Base, N.D., paintball field is prepped and ready for play.

Players are required to fill out a safety form and waiver. Players between 13 and 18 years of age must have a parent or legal guardian sign the form as well.

Anyone under age 13 must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian while participating in paintball in addition to signing the safety form and waiver.

Paintballs can sting, so it's recommended your arms and legs are covered.

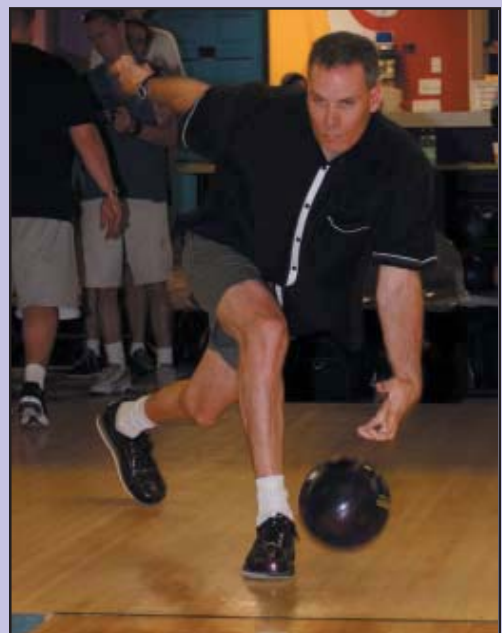
Get ready to load and lock those paintball guns.



**A member of the 740th Missile Squadron surrenders on the paintball field.**

## *Honor roll ...*

Sean Beck warms up for a night of league play at Thunderbolt Lanes at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., recently. He set a bowling center record April 18 by bowling a 279, 264 and 279 for an 822 series. A few weeks ago, he bowled a 774 series. The average game in the intramural bowling league is 211. The 822 series qualifies Mr. Beck for an American Bowling Congress award. Photo by Senior Airman Joseph Thompson



# Ellsworth Fitness Center locker rooms get facelift

By 1st Lt. Elizabeth De Jesus  
Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.,  
Public Affairs

It's been almost 40 years. The locker rooms at the base fitness center are finally getting a makeover. Beginning this summer the women's and men's locker rooms at the Bellamy Fitness Center will be completely renovated for the first time since the 1960s.

"We've been planning this project for over three years," said Richard Madden, 28th Services Squadron fitness director. "I think the women will be happier."

The \$300,000 project, which began May 15, consists of new showers, sinks, counter tops, lighting and tile floors. The lockers won't be replaced, but will receive a fresh coat of paint.

The laundry room will be converted into the new women's VIP locker room and the two showers that exist in the current women's VIP room will be added to the six showers in the main shower area.

"It will be an updated locker room," Mr. Madden said. "The bathroom stalls will stay the same, but everything else will be new."

The steam room will also be renovated and will be larger, he said.

"Every group commander has seen the locker room in the past three years and agreed that the women's locker room needed to be renovated," Mr. Madden said.

The project is scheduled to be completed by mid-August. In the mean time, women may shower in the men's VIP locker room and may use the 26 available lockers for daily

use only. The men's locker room will be renovated later this summer.

The \$260,000 project is scheduled to be completed by August and consists of replacing the lighting and the 16 existing shower heads. The sauna will also be renovated and a wheelchair-accessible shower and bathroom area will be added.

During the renovations men may use the showers at the Youth Center's outdoor pool area.

The men can still use their lockers since the locker area will not be touched, Mr. Madden said.

"We understand people will be inconvenienced," he said, "but upgrading the facility is necessary."

A third renovation project that began April 15 is currently being done at the PRIDE Hangar. The \$1.1 million dollar project is also scheduled for completion in August and includes the addition of new lighting, heating, showers and bathrooms.

The men's shower area will have communal showers and the women's will have four individual showers.

"Come winter time, we should be up and running in all the facilities," he said.

"(The renovation) will make base members feel like they're in a brand new fitness center," said Capt. Rick Pelzl, 28th SVS Combat Support flight commander. "With fitness being as big as it is in the Air Force these days, (the renovation) is going to make them feel good going into the locker room after a workout."



## Reflecting pool ...

Lindsey Keiser, Oasis Pool lifeguard, surveys the Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., pool recently, ensuring there is no unsafe activity taking place. Photo by Airman Levi Riendeau

# KEMPO KARATE

## *Children, adults learn 2,000-year-old martial art*

**By Julie Ray**  
Air Warfare Center  
Public Affairs

Children wearing belts of all colors, representing their ranking in karate, bow upon entering the studio to show respect to the "house of training" before beginning a Kempo karate class.

The house of training is the Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Community Center, which offers classes to children and adults, and teaches one of the oldest forms of martial arts.

The school's Sensei, or teacher, Scott Charette, an award-winning martial arts competitor, has been practicing karate since he was 7 years old.

"Kempo karate is a fast art," said Mr. Charette. "The

reason I love the art is because it offers real-world strategy to defend yourself.

Karate is a great way of getting and staying in shape and also gives people a chance to learn a 2,000-year-old skill."

Mr. Charette had a successful martial arts studio downtown but gave it up to spend more time with his family. Even though he left his business, the teacher said he didn't want to completely give up what he spent most of his life learning and loving.

"I decided to teach here at Nellis to give something back to the military community," said the sensei. "Since I gave up my business I can still do what I love and at the same time, teach people the art."



**Students from the "house of training" perform warm-up exercises before the Kempo karate class. Photo by Julie Ray**

According to Mr. Charette, the art of Kempo uses 50 percent hands and 50 percent feet, whereas Tae Kwon Do uses 80 percent feet and 20 percent hands.

"This class is a lot of self-defense. Every part of the body can be used against an attacker," he said. Kathy Raggio, wife of Lt. Col. Dave Raggio, commander of the 59th Test and Evaluation Squadron, and their three children, 8-year-old Giuliana, 7-year-old Karli and 6-year-old J.D., attend the classes to learn self-defense.

"I have been in the class since March and I really enjoy it," said Mrs. Raggio. "Since my children were taking classes, I decided to enroll in the adult karate class. My husband is going to join, too."

Although the children enjoy the classes for the art, Mrs. Raggio explained, her husband was more focused on the safety techniques being taught.

"I think the classes are really fun and we learn many karate moves," said Giuliana. "But my dad wants us to

take the class so we can learn to defend ourselves."

Anyone at any age can participate in karate, explained Mr. Charette. He has had students from ages 5 to 88 years old. He said the class is great for Airmen to stay in shape.

"None of the previous Airmen who have attended my class have failed the Air Force physical fitness test," the sensei said. "They have all passed with flying colors. I think this is a great class for Airmen to take advantage of."



# Rough Rider Lanes wins by a landslide

From left: Amporn Boddy, cook; Gene Curtiss, Rough Rider Bowling Center manager; Sandra Zemanek, cashier; Beverly Vajda, Kelley's Place manager; and William Olsen, head mechanic. Photo by Debbie Bechtold

**By Debbie Bechtold**  
**Minot Services**

The Rough Rider Bowling Center at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., has been recognized as the "Best in Air Combat Command" for 2005 and will represent

ACC at the Air Force level competition.

This is the third time in four years Minot AFB's bowling program has marked this achievement.

"I'd like to thank our loyal patrons for their continued support of our

bowling programs, as well as (support for) Kelley's Place," said Gene Curtiss, Minot AFB's Rough Rider Bowling Center manager.

The Rough Rider Lanes team boasts a wide variety of programs scheduled throughout the year.



Free bowling to family members of deployed personnel on Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. and Thursdays from 2 to

4 p.m. was designed to lend a helpful hand in giving families a break during deployment times.

## Wax on, wax off

From left, Samantha Smith, Peter Fernandez and Kieran McMullin practice self-defense moves during karate practice recently at the Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Youth Center.

Nearly 20 children and adults participated in the weekly practice, which teaches children to respect authority figures and builds self-confidence and self-discipline. Photo by 2nd Lt. William Powell



# Lackland fitness centers slim down operating hours

By Wayne Amann  
37<sup>th</sup> Services Division

Citing a combination of deployments and short manning Lackland officials announced a permanent reduction in operating hours for the six fitness centers on base.

Starting May 9 the Warhawk, Gateway, Chaparral, Bennett, Gillum and Medina facilities reduced their combined total hours from 551 to 460 hours per week.

The cutback is the result of 11 military members of the 37th Services Division deploying for Air Expeditionary Force buckets 5/6 coupled with the 65 percent manning within Lackland's fitness and sports activities.

"This will not be temporary," Col. Mary Kay Hertog, 37th Training Wing commander emphasized in a message to Lackland leadership. "Our future AEF commitments are not decreasing so there's nothing on the horizon that will alter the circumstances that drove this change."

To minimize the impact on the Air Force's "Fit to Fight" initiative the Warhawk on Main Lackland, Medina on the Lackland Training Annex and the Gillum on Kelly Field's Security Hill will experience the smallest reduction in hours.

All six fitness centers incorporate the abbreviated times during non-peak periods, primarily late nights and weekends. The Warhawk closes at 10 p.m. instead of 1 a.m. on weekdays.

To maintain the highest possible level of service fitness center manning is being augmented by Reserve man-days and detail people. Four non-appropriated fund over-hires are being added to cover any gaps.

Despite the reduction, Lackland still enjoys more than 120 available fitness hours, more each week than any other Air Education and Training Command base.

"Be assured," the wing commander added, "we remain committed to providing the best service possible to every Team Lackland member within the constraints of available resources."

## Nellis youth bowler qualifies for tourney

By Dale Mitcham  
99<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron

Jessie Ramirez recently won the Pepsi Nevada State Championship in the Girls Handicap Division by 11 pins. She rolled a 181 game coming out the gate and finished big with a 214 game to capture the division. Her total pin count was 1,383 for six games for a 230 average.



Jesse Ramirez

Ms. Ramirez carries a 143 average at the Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., 300 Lanes. She is the first youth bowler to garner state honors in more than five years. As a result of her triumph, the 19 year old will represent the Nellis Young American Bowling Alliance program in July at the national finals in Indianapolis, Ind.

Two bowlers from the Nellis contingent had impressive tournaments, but didn't qualify for the national competition. In the Scratch Division, Ray Griffith started strong with seven strikes in a row in his first game, posting a 242 pin count. He finished with a 268 game in the first set posting a 733 series. "It was like a 'strikathon' in the national bowling stadium for about two hours," said Nellis YABA Co-director and Coach Stephen Griffith.

Kenny Ramirez then went on a tear, ripping nine consecutive strikes during his fourth game. He left two pins in the 10th frame to finish with a 266 game. Mr. Griffith finished third in state with a 1,400 series (233 average) and Kenny Ramirez finished eighth in tourney with a 1,215 series (202 average).

# AF men take volleyball crown

**By Walt Johnson**  
Colorado Springs  
Military Newspaper  
Group

The Air Force men's volleyball team won the 2005 Men's Armed Forces Volleyball Championship in Colorado Springs, Colo., in May.

The Airmen began by defeating the Navy 25-23, 25-17, 22-25 and 25-22. After the Army defeated the Marines — 12-25, 22-25, 25-21, 25-19 and 25-17 — they could take control of the tournament if

they could beat Air Force.

Air Force had other thoughts, and pulled out a four-match victory (25-21, 25-23, 17-25 and 25-18) to finish the first night undefeated.

On the second day of action, the Air Force defeated the Marines to take a 3-0 record into the third day.

The Air Force's team could have put a stranglehold on the men's title if it could defeat the Navy men. After watching the other service teams knock

each other off, Air Force, with a victory, would have mathematically wrapped the championship.

Malu Segai, Air Force men's team head coach, said winning the championship was the goal from the beginning for his team.

"From the time the players arrived at the training camp in Hawaii, we told them our goal was to win the inter-service championship," he said.

The Navy team then beat the Air Force team in five

sets (25-20, 21-25, 25-18, 18-25, 15-8).

In the nightcap of second-round action, the Army teams defeated the Marine teams, setting up third-day action that would determine how the tournament would finish.

Air Force defeated the Army to push its record to 4-1 and assure itself of at least a tie for the title going into the last round of the tournament.

On the final day, the Air Force men had a simple mission: win its

game against the Marines to succeed Navy as the armed forces champions.

While a loss would not have ended the Air Force hopes of winning the title, it would have forced it into a playoff match against either the Navy or Army.

Air Force did not leave anything to chance defeating the Marines 25-16, 25-14 and 25-19 to wrap up the championship.

*(Courtesy  
American Forces  
Press Service)*



## Mommy and me work out

Bethanie Murphy, left, and Odalys Duarte work out while keeping an eye on their children in the parent-child fitness room at the Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., Dragon Fitness Center. The play area is for ages 6 months to 7 years. The moms are spouses of Benjamin Murphy, 338th Training Squadron, and Manuel Duarte, 403rd Wing. Photo by Kemberly Groue



# Holloman Fitness Fair includes cycling, 'Iron Airman Challenge'

**By Crystal Bender**  
**49th Services Squadron**

The 49th Services Squadron at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., joined with other base organizations to put on the annual Fitness Fair recently.

Squadrons participated in the "Iron Airman Challenge." The squadron teams

consisted of four men and two women who completed six events: 1.5 mile run, abdominal crunches, push ups, bench press, leg press and pull ups. The 49<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron (49<sup>th</sup> MXS) won the challenge and a Select Tech Nautilus dumbbell set sponsored by Nautilus.

The winning team members were 2nd Lt. Carmel Patton, Tech. Sgts. Darrell Carr and Travis Neitch, Staff Sgt. Ryan Carn, Senior Airman Patrick Sudduth, and Airmen 1st Class David Hamilton, and Bethany Stubblefield.

In the afternoon, students from the Lacy Simms Middle School from Alamogordo, N.M., participated in various activities, including cycling.

The Fitness Center, with the assistance of the Health and Wellness Center, held a "Health and Fitness Fair." Twelve information booths were set up, including information on tobacco cessation, physical therapy information on back problems and athletic/ankle taping, blood pressure screening, family advocacy, new parent support program, physiological training center



**Tech. Sgt. Renise Pritchett from the Holloman Air Force Base Wellness Center helps a Lacy Simms Middle School student adjust his bike. Photos by Crystal Bender**



**Tech. Sgt. Roland Cooper competes in the pull up event.**

on stress and fatigue.

Activities during the month included week-long basketball and volleyball tournaments plus a

"Fallen Hero Run/Walk," home run derby, a half marathon, and a 3-point free throw shoot out.



**A competitor strains during the leg press event.**

# Air Force takes second at 2005 Armed Forces Triathlon Championship

**By Staff Sgt. Guillermo Salazar**  
Air Force Services Agency

The Air Force took second at the 2005 Armed Forces Triathlon Championship, June 15 through 19, at the Naval Base Ventura County, Calif. This Armed Forces championship is an Olympic distance course (1,500 meter swim, 40 kilometer bicycle route, and 10 kilometer run) conducted at Point Mugu, Calif. Team results are based on the raw scoring times of the team's top eight male and four female competitors.

The Navy's Tim O'Donnell, a lieutenant junior grade,

won the event with a time of 1:49:16, beating his old record, and setting a new course record for this championship. Capt. James Bales (Lackland Air Force Base, Texas) was the top Air Force finisher (sixth overall, behind Army and Navy competitors) with a time of 1:55:58. Lt. Col. Geoffrey Cleveland (Luke AFB, Ariz.) finished with a time of 1:57:01, good for ninth overall and ninth military finisher.

The remaining Air Force scoring times for the men's division were Capt. Brian Grasky (Tucson Air National Guard Base, Ariz.) 1:58:27, Tech. Sgt. Michael Bergquist

(Fairchild AFB, Wash.) 1:59:29, 2nd Lt. Scott Diehl (U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.) 2:00:00, Capt. William Poteet (Luke AFB) 2:00:25, Lt. Col. Richard Sumrall (Hurlburt Field AFB, Fla.) 2:00:34, and Staff Sgt. Christopher Larson (Wheeler Army Air Field, Hawaii) 2:02:15.

The Army's Capt. Jessica Jones was the first woman to cross the finish line, with a time of 2:02:39. First Lt. Lara Coppinger (Los Angeles AFB, Calif.) was the top Air Force woman's finisher with a time of 2:11:35 and third place in the woman's division, earning a bronze



**Coppinger**

medal. The remaining woman's times were Capt. Maiya Kraus (Hill AFB, Utah) 2:11:40, Maj. Erika Foster (AFROTC Rochester Institute of Technology) 2:11:44, and Capt. Abigail White (Robins AFB, Ga.) 2:13:25.

Final results were Army 24:33:25, Air Force 24:42:33, Marine Corps 25:22:32, and the Navy 29:32:21.

Major Foster, Captain Kraus and Lieutenant Coppinger all earned berths on the combined Armed Forces Triathlon Team that will compete in the 2004 Conseil International du Sport Militaire Triathlon Champion-



**Bales**

ship at Naval Base Ventura County, Calif.

Due to the United States being the host for the CISM competition, the top three Master's men and top three Master's women were chosen to compete in the CISM.

Colonels Sumrall and Cleveland qualified as top three Master's from the Air Force.

# Malmstrom skate park moves

**Submitted by the 341st Services Squadron**

The skate park at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., has been relocated to the old tennis court behind the base pool and is now open. The new location offers more skating area and is easily accessible for housing and dorm residents.

At the grand opening of the skate park there was a free barbecue and drawings for door prizes. Skaters took part in a Safe Skating Demo prior to the opening.

The park includes a quarter pipe, half-pipe, tranibank, kinked grind

rail, street spine, manual pad and beef box. A new pyramid has also been added.

The Skate Park is open seven days a week and hours of operation coincide with base curfew hours.

Skateboarding and in-line skating are increasingly popular recreational activities – it's fun, active, physically demanding and mentally challenging.

While these activities may look reckless, they are essentially low impact and relatively safe sports when skaters skate within their capabilities and develop their skills. Serious injuries happen when a

skater loses control and falls or runs into an object. Skaters are at greater risk for injuries when they don't use protective equipment, don't keep their boards or skates in good condition, skate on irregular surfaces, or attempt tricks beyond their skill level.

Skateboarding is not recommended for young children.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics children under the age of 5 should never ride a skateboard and children ages 6 to 10 need close supervision whenever they ride a skateboard or use in-line skates.

# Royal Oaks hopes bigger is better

**By Carolyn Knothe**  
Whiteman Air Force Base,  
Mo., Public Affairs

Golfers who have been to the Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., golf course lately may have noticed some new construction taking place behind the mobile home currently serving as the course's clubhouse.

The large, dark-bricked building that's almost completed will soon serve as the Royal Oaks Golf Course's new clubhouse.

"The old clubhouse was small,

and basically it was time for a new facility to better serve our customers," said Zach Adamson, Head Golf Course Superintendent and interim course manager.

"The golf course has anywhere from 50 to 250 golfers a day, and our goal is to get as many people through the door as possible. The new clubhouse will help with that," he said.

The \$2.1 million project, started in June 2004, is scheduled to be completed by August, Mr.

Adamson said. The new building will have men's and women's locker rooms, a full-stocked pro shop and snack bar/restaurant.

Golf course regulars are excited about what the 7,000-square foot clubhouse will offer.

"Everything in it will be better than what we had," said Ed Sumter, a retiree.

Art White, also a retiree, said the building will be roomier and more spacious than the previous clubhouse. "It'll be upgraded



**The new clubhouse at Royal Oaks Golf Course will be more spacious, will have men's and women's locker rooms, a pro shop and a restaurant. The project is scheduled for completion in August. Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Padden**

and have more room for more people," he said.

While waiting to tee off, Senior Airman Adam Scott, 509th Maintenance Squadron said he's

looking forward to the new image the clubhouse will project.

"It makes it more like a sophisticated country club," he said.





Capt. Mike Herman from Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., takes aim during the recently completed 2005 Interservice Trap Championships. He took the silver medal in the Single Trap event and the bronze medal in the 150-target match. Courtesy photo

## Air Force shooting team takes silver, bronze at 2005 interservice trap match

**By Master Sgt. Jeffrey Julig**  
**Air Force International Trap Shooting Team**

The Air Force International Trap Shooting Team recently competed in the 2005 Interservice Trap Championships and won two interservice medals.

The five-day competition held at the Hook Shotgun Range on Fort Benning, Ga., brought Air Force and Army marksman together to compete in International Trap and Double Trap events.

Capt. Mike Herman from Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., took the

silver medal in the Single Trap event, finishing behind Spc. Matt Wallace of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit in the 300-target match.

In the Double Trap event, Captain Herman won the bronze medal in the 150-target match behind Staff Sgt. Bill Keever and PFC Josh Richmond, also of the USAMU.

Staff Sgt. Mike Agee, also from Schriever AFB, just missed the medal stand in the Single Trap event, finishing only one target behind three-time Olympian, Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class Bret Erickson from the Army Marksmanship Unit.

Air Force Shooting team members train while off-duty and compete in a temporary or permissive duty status in several shotgun, rifle, and pistol disciplines.

Training for competition at this level requires a substantial personal time commitment, adherence to a strict training regimen, and support from the Air Force Services Agency and each member's leadership, coworkers, family, and friends.

The Air Force Shooting Team sets the standard for marksmanship within the Air Force Unit.

and provides an opportunity for Air Force members to compete for selection on teams representing the United States in international and Olympic competitions. The presence of Air Force shooters in national and international competition enhances the image and prestige of the U.S. Air Force and demonstrates the Air Force's commitment to the preservation and advancement of marksmanship as an inherent military skill.

As Air Force ambassadors under

the We Are All Recruiters program, team members help maintain public support for the Air Force and tell others what it means to be an Air Force member and help recruit future Airman.

For additional information on the Air Force Competitive Sports Program, visit the Air Force Sports Web site at [www.usafsports.com](http://www.usafsports.com). For more information on the WEAR program visit the Air Force Recruiting Service Web site at [www.afrecruiting.com](http://www.afrecruiting.com).